

# MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 24 2003

## TV'S BAD BOYS

Behind the scenes of Trailer Park Boys,  
the trashy, sweet hit show

### WARNING

This article is about  
the most foul-mouthed  
show on the dial

Jean Paul Tremblay,  
Mike Smith and  
Robb Wells

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## THE MAN WE KNEW...A BIT

Jean Chrétien let us see what he wanted us to see—and nothing more

A DECADE AGO, at the close of a day spent with our then newly minted Prime Minister, I followed Jean and Allan Chrétien as they left a reception on Parliament Hill. Near the car, the PM stopped, got on reading glasses, and peered at a plaque beneath a tapestry on the wall. "Ahh," said Chrétien, looking morosely at the wall. "This isn't a Rousseau, is it?" I said to a "Werner." In fact, it's a [Marcel] Rousseau Werner.

That tale of Jean Chrétien—sophisticated art lover, connoisseur of classical music—was

something he hid, but he never went out of his way to advertise it either. It would have been in odds with his long-established image as a plain-spoken populist—the kind of guy you'd be happy to have a beer with as you watched hockey on TV. And he's genuinely happy doing that, too—just as he loves his golf, watching football, and other traditional out-gay activities.

An interesting thing about the PM as he prepares to leave office is how successful he's been at letting us know exactly as much as he chose about his private life and one thing—advice to nothing beyond that. "Who are Jean Chrétien's friends outside politics?" He has them, all right—and makes clear that if they talk about their relationship with him, they would lose to be friends. In my opinion, similarly, as an officer, other than food passing references to Allan. He's aware of tough truth written and said about him in the media (though he likes to pretend he isn't). In general, he's taken his without complaint. He merely let it travel into his job. I wrote a critical piece about a decision he'd made. A week later, the phone rang: the PM was offering congratulations on my enjoying the editorship (even though I see you aren't writing very nice things about me).

The exception in revealing his feelings was his fraught relationship with Quebec. In his farewell speech to Liberals last week, Chrétien acknowledged the pain he'd felt in being vilified there for years by nationalists and even some federalists. That's about now—gratifying, of course, because he's leaving. His last response lies in poll numbers in Quebec that are the highest for the Liberals since the Trudeau years.

The PM's farewell speech would have been much better received if, as someone said,

“There were funny moments. When Chrétien told Liberals they do not ‘govern by divine right,’ some looked startled.”

then for him? Many must have wondered whether that was a promise, or a threat.

We all make mistakes and do things we regret—or should. Chrétien could have been less stubborn in refusing to acknowledge error, more reluctant to posture politeness, and less absorbed by his steadily increasing resentment of Paul Martin (and, through out his tenure, by his enmity toward Brian Mulroney). But it's hard to imagine how anyone could have done any more, or done more of their life, energy and passion to someone. So, he's just to stand at the ball for a long time looking up to that, the pleasure was both his, and ours. Wish him a well-deserved retirement—and hope he doesn't make his delight too obvious when the other guy makes inevitable mistakes.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

anton@maclean.ca is comment on The Editor's Letter

## MACLEAN'S

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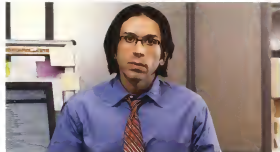
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A guide to the on demand world The big picture

Yes, I'm sure on demand is very, very, very important. What is it again?

It's an on demand world. When did it happen? Who pushed the "on" button in on demand? Did we just wake up one morning to an on demand world?

Not really. Business and technology continue to merge. E-business has continued to increase customer expectations. Pressure to deliver instantly has reached a critical mass, a tipping point where on demand becomes the norm. So what is on demand? To a consumer, it's getting what you want, when you want it—like sending a video right on your TV set. For companies, it's integrating your processes internally and with partners, suppliers and customers. So when opportunity knocks, you're ready. And as people get more things on demand, the more they'll expect it from you. Are you ready?

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"If Paul Martin really wants to endeavor himself to Western Canadians, he should support A&W, which is Western-based, rather than Wendy's." — **BILL GIBBONAL**, Toronto, B.C.

#### New guy on the block

Paul Martin is carrying too much baggage ("Paul Martin's Ottawa," *Globe*, Nov. 10). He said nothing while Jean Stewart blew \$1 billion in the HRDC scandal and, as finance minister, he wrote the cheque for the broadband gas-control laws, sinking it to us taxpayers in taxes. This makes him a suitable prime minister? It makes him a suitable Liberal.

Leo Miller, Vancouver

The economic and social prosperity of a nation is directly related to the honesty, accountability, responsibility and integrity of its government. Jean Chretien has put made 47 percentage appointments to high-paying positions from among friends and supporters. Every week a new scandal erupts in Ottawa. Very few of the *Real Book* profiles coveting the last three elections have been kept. Paul Martin is making all kinds of statements that sound good. However, he is well schooled in Liberal ways that have always worked for Liberals, and seldom cheap Eric A. Ryan, Langley, B.C.

"Paul Martin's Ottawa: who's in & who's out" — who cares?

Steve Seaton, Victoria

Anthony Wilson-Smith claims that Jean Chretien's "extra time in office identifies among overall legacies" ("A long time coming," *The Editor's Letter*, Nov. 10). It may be going against the tide, but from here it looks like Chretien has done more in the last year than in the previous nine. Whether you agree with his positions or not, it is undeniable by taking a strong stand against the U.S. invasion of Iraq, supporting same-sex marriage, recommending the decriminalization of marijuana, ratifying the Kyoto accord and bringing in limits on campaign funding, he has started up a number of vigas about national debates. Paul Martin, despite his "ambitions to get on with the task of running the country," has been excessive in most of these same issues.

Richard Thoroff, Hurley, B.C.

## MACLEAN'S PAUL MARTIN'S OTTAWA WHO'S IN & WHO'S OUT

#### The eat/don't eat dilemma

"The empty seas" (*Environment*, Nov. 3) advised readers about seafood stocks they can eat with a clear conscience and those they should avoid on conservation grounds. Orange roughy was listed among the "don't eat" species. This assertion is patently incorrect in most of the orange roughy purchased in Canada is sourced from New Zealand. The *Journal of New Zealand Orange Roughy* made available to the rest of the world established under rigorous, scientific fishery management process, and does not pose a threat to this species. Sustainable fishing is at the heart of the New Zealand fishery management system. Catch limits have been respected because of the cautious per-

ties that face rule-breakers, including confiscation of oars, vessels, equipment and gear, coupled with severe fines.

Sharon Kelly, New Zealand High Commissioner, Ottawa

Canadians no longer have to look to American sources for guidance on sustainable seafood choices. The Sierra Club of Canada's B.C. chapter has just published a Canadian "Citizen's Guide to Seafood," which can be found under "steering the steering wheel" at [www.sierraclub.ca/bcprograms/seafood/index.html](http://www.sierraclub.ca/bcprograms/seafood/index.html). It questions some of the fish you listed as acceptable, such as farmed sturgeon, coho and Pacific cod, all of which are on our "do not eat" list. Also at risk are dozens of groundfish species, which include not only red snapper and Pacific cod but some 75 long-lived and slow-growing rockfish. Meanwhile, our rule of thumb is that eating locally is better, as you are more likely to know where your seafood is coming from and how it is being caught.

Sharon Choe, Marine Manager, Sierra Club of Canada (B.C. Chapter), Victoria

#### Silence on slavery

Frances Bok's book, *Escape from Slavery*, is a compelling and powerful account of how a young boy witnessed forced abduction and the pernicious evil of slavery in Sudan ("I'd rather die than be a slave," *Vancouver*, Nov. 10). However, what is even more heart-breaking is that countless more victims of slavery continue to suffer that cruel fate in Sudan. Moreover, Sudan has been subjected to a brutal and devastating civil war. Why has the media been mute or blind to this tragedy? Why cannot the Canadian government be more proactive in bringing peace and reconstruction to the region and ending the gravest of human rights violations? Why does the government of Sudan, with its despotic human rights record, claim the United Nations human rights commission? Where is the world's outcry?

Dr. Norman L. Epstein, co-chair Canadian Against Slavery and Torture in Sudan, Thornhill, Ont.

#### Canada's global challenge

As I read the article about Lt. Gen. Romeo Dallaire's experiences in Rwanda and his new book describing the lack of support from the UN and international community ("Bearing witness," *Maclean's*, Oct. 27), I had just finished reading Lloyd

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# MACLEAN'S



### THE MAIL



Testator's First World War diaries capture the tedium and horror of life in the trenches

Austerity's new book, *Navigating a New World: Canada's Global Future*, in which he writes about the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, which he headed. ICISS delivered a report in late 2001 called "The Responsibility to Protect," which laid out a framework for international intervention based on a qualified need to protect human security where the state responsible could not, or would not (as was the case in Rwanda), offer protection. In the aftermath of 9/11 this report received very little attention and, as it does not seem to align with current foreign policy of the U.S., it may never see any more attention. It does, however, provide some answers to the questions raised by Dallaire and offers a workable solution. The question now comes, will Canada once again take up the lead role in the international peace builder to implement "The Responsibility to Protect" program?

Ken Macdonald, Colwyn Bay, Ont.

#### Words of wisdom

Congratulations for publishing excerpts from John Testator's journals ("Diaries of doom," *History*, Nov. 30). I remember my mother reading those diaries in the 1940s. She was a close friend of a member of the Testator family, who lived in the diaries. They gave my mother many insights and a much greater understanding of what my father had undergone in the trenches during the First World War. It is absolutely vital that personal recollections such as John Testator's

be published so that following generations will understand the sacrifice and courage of ordinary Canadians who were called to do extraordinary deeds.

Robert Walker, Strathroy, Ont.

#### Necessary evil

I strongly agree with Lesley Choyce's willingness to pay his share ("May I please pay taxes?" *Over to You*, Nov. 10). Taxes, prudently spent in appropriate areas, elevate our competitiveness as a nation, our personal safety, comfort and enjoyment as citizens. Taxes spent on international objectives to diffuse global co-operation, progress and goodwill among all nations, rich and poor, and expand our commercial markets. Without taxes to create a common set of goals, culture and community, we would be just a bunch of *Dawson's Creek* along our national and bleak and brutal landscape. No thanks!

Bill Franklin, Aurora, Ont.

When Fred Leslie Choyce's article describing the virtues of paying taxes, I considered a very well written, humorous and caustic in a fashionable cynicism. Days later, it ran. Mind. Call me naive, but I will not accept that premise that government mismanagement of public money is a given. Money collected in taxes represents the sweat, ingenuity, intellect and collective will of our nation. I agree that haggling over pennies is pointless, but it isn't always pennies. Vigilance isn't easy, or fashionable. It does lead to no mindless from time to time, but it also

### THE MAIL

compels us toward change. Evolution is the lifeblood of democracy.

Bob E. Lewis, New Bridge, Ont.

#### Rightly or wrongly

I am amused with the PCs and the Alliance and all the anti-merger talk ("Two to tango," *Politics*, Oct. 27). Some think that, through unification, this tangled child will be able to eventually form the government. But let's face it, the PCs, given their political history, given many of their past leaders, given their ideology, have more in common with the Liberals than the Alliance. I've voted PC in the past, so they appeared to be a viable alternative to the governing PCs. Highly unlikely I would ever vote for a "merged" party, given this would not be a merger of equals.

Simply because the PCs are right of centre does not mean they are as far to the right as, or comparable with, the Alliance. And yet, the Canadian electorate, not so fooled.

Rick Peltier, Edmonton

Having repeatedly been stunned by the level of voter levelled against the recent deal to merge the Progressive Conservative party and the Canadian Alliance, I feel compelled to speak out. The proposed Conservative Party of Canada will, under the wording of the merger agreement, assume the assets and liabilities of the PC Party of Canada, guaranteeing that the new party will have a legal tie to the movement founded by Sir John A. Macdonald and George-Étienne Cartier in 1854. In addition, under the agreement, the Conservative party will retain its relationships with the several provincial Progressive Conservative parties that remain active. That is a far better tie back to the grand old party. But this best way to make sure this merger is a continuation of the Tory tradition after so many Tories as possible to become a part of it. The only way for this merger process to become the death of the Tory party is for PC party members to vote it down, and go into yet another federal election splitting votes with the Canadian Alliance.

Jason Stewart Baker, Toronto

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## MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



### INKLESS WELLS

Whether he's on Parliament Hill or on the road at the Liberal convention in Toronto, or at one of his favourite jazz festivals, readers can now enjoy reading Maclean's back page columnist Paul Wells on a near-daily basis.

Wells is "blogging." That's tech talk for people who use the Web as a forum to discuss whatever the "blogger" may want to discuss. There are sports blogs, anti-war blogs, photo blogs—estimates are as high as two million blogs on all kinds of topics. Wells's political blog, dubbed "Inkless Wells," is one of the sub-forms of the broader blogging genre. It lends itself to short, punchy arguments about the events of the moment: micro-columns, in effect.

Wells says he loves the medium because he's able to use it to deliver unique takes on stories that are "being covered to death" in newspapers and on television. "In three or four paragraphs you can spend readers' thinking on a subject," says Wells. "It's fun to try anyway."

Those of you who regularly log on to [www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca) may have already found that Inkless Wells has a different flavour than his weekly back page column. "My mandate for the print column is nearly wide open, but the blog takes it to a weaker level because I can write about stuff that specifically interests me in a political junkie."

Blogs by journalists who work full-time for mainstream news organizations aren't common in Canada. By offering its readers this unique complement to the weekly issue, Maclean's is participating in one of the hottest trends in on-line publishing.

"I'm very conscious of wanting my blog to represent added journalistic value: to share reporting and observations that wouldn't ordinarily make it into the magazine," says Wells. "For me, it's a personal test to see how quickly I can deliver on-line commentary that retains the value of traditional journalism."

Visit [www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca) to read Wells's latest blog.

For further information about this article, contact [schmidt@postmedia.ca](mailto:schmidt@postmedia.ca).

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### ScoreCard

**A Boughen Complaint:** Word-Vue author achieves immortality after his caustic term "boughen" included in Merriam Webster dictionary. McGonigall's extra-complaint definition—dead-end service industry work—a "downing" isn't that what dictionary editors find so amusing?

**A. Michael Ovitz.** No Michael likely for Best 15-year-old. When legal fight to force two-Chicago school boards to design pop-contracts with Pope and Gale. Ovitz cautions to show unsightly links between childhood obesity and a fat questionnaire.

**▲ Midge and baby:** Barbie's prammy-pammy pal was top-knitting by Canadian Toy Testing Council but is banned in U.S. by easily scandalized WHM! Mom. (Sure, why—Midge's baby, like Todd separately, is ill equipped to reveal the secrets of creation.)

**▼ Larry Flynt.** Pornographer claims he bought nazy photos that give new meaning to term "Private" Jessica Lynch. Says pictures of phony POW next to agent in flak jacket because that's a "usual war" who's been victimized enough. So shut up already.

▼ **She shows Johnson** Remember her? Exactly the other female U.S. soldier wounded and captured in Iraq; flight happens to be black. Guess less than half the disability pension of Jessica Lynch. No book deal. No movie of the week. On plus side, no *Lucy* threat either.



## Politics | Raising up a new municipal agenda

of the usually warm atmosphere of a very interesting election, it was amusing to watch all these dancing steps of Hogue's new line. "I've never seen either David Miller or Harvard educated New Democrat with a sense of humor—one of his campaign slogans was "Extraordinary Leadership/Extraordinary Hair"—Miller shot from near obscurity to stardom with the help of a rainbow coalition that included some very prominent Gits. Among them, Jay Byrnes gave Bob Kerrey and former prime minister Jean Chrétien the nod. And, as the social super-momster Peter Dinklage and Pico Cossentino, as federal liberals gathered for the Paul Martin coronation, there was lots of ooohooooo chatter about the "Three N's": Martin, Miller and (ahhh) McGeary. Cossentino, once liberal nemesis, Martin's

Miller, sweeping out the old guard as Vancouver's Campbell (below) did a year ago.



signalled the end of expansion plans for Toronto's island airport, the key save the waterfront plank in Miller's campaign.

It's great to have new friends. But a better take on Miller's selection is to look at the content of the rise of the lefty, insular mayors. He is not the latest in a group that includes Whittney's Glen Murray and Vancouver's Larry Campbell, a former cop and coauthor—both with engaging cultural profiles no longer, error drops and the homeless. To municipal circles these are calling these the Big Three. And what they have in common is a dogged determination to force their agendas onto provincial and federal planes and to say, give us the money and we will finish the job. Nice hair is just a bonus.

ROBERT S. LINDENBERG



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Joelle Fleming didn't know it, but she had the daughter of parents who were voice teachers. she went to college hoping to teach music. But her voice was about to be heard. In a small nightclub in upstate New York, she started singing jazz. Her performances were an incredible feat. legendary saxophonist Dinro Jacquet invited her to tour with him. Understanding her voice was a gift, she opted to keep studying music. The Juilliard School immediately saw her talent, the rest of the world would soon follow. Over the years, the world's foremost appears has chosen together, more unexpected sides. she does this because she talent over the can and her heart wants her to.



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**Quote of the week** | 'It was seen as a tragedy in the family. Being murdered is bad enough, but being cannibalized on top of that is hard to accept.' Australian GEOFF LESTER, at a reconciliation ceremony to remain Tili in alone for the death of his Norel, Ishedrih in company The mas, Baker, in 1987



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## UPFRONT

Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



### A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN

While Canadians favour stronger economic ties with the U.S., they want to stay distinct

WHEN new Liberal leader Paul Martin set out to mend our prickly relationship with the Bush administration over the past few months, he will have the blessing of most Canadians. In the 35 years since a divisive federal election effectively approved free trade with the Americans, we have come to value that treaty—and those economic ties. But heaven help the Canadian politician who mistakes that sensible businesslike approach to neighbourly relations for permission to integrate such areas as cultural or energy policy. A new poll data shows, we have adopted a pragmatic approach to our powerful southern neighbour: we thoroughly approve of deeper economic ties with the U.S.—but we see our values as distinct and worth preserving. We simply cannot picture ourselves as North Americans in a continental union.

The private poll from Elton Research Associates Inc., shared with Maclean's, is the third installment in a striking multi-year project to measure attitudes among the three partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement. In a total sampling of 5,000 people this fall, two-thirds of the respondents in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico agreed that the existing free trade agreement should be strengthened. There was even approval of an economic union like the European Union: 57 per cent in Canada, 44 per cent in the U.S. and 59 per cent in Mexico.

But here comes the tricky part: Fully 42 per cent of Canadians want to become less like the U.S. economy—and 48 per cent want no change in the relationship. Our attitudes are pragmatic.

65 per cent would like to see integrated environmental policies. But only 35 per cent would meld energy policies—and a mere 27 per cent would merge banking. Elton president Frank Grosse detects a new pattern. "Unlike Europe, where higher levels of economic integration result in a subordination of national identity," he says, "in North America, where there is probably stronger economic interdependence, we are seeing a deeper sense of what it means to be Canadian."

This has profound implications for Martin. At a recent Carleton University conference, Michael Hart, distinguished fellow at the School Centre for Trade Policy and Law, summarized the breathtaking number of integration proposals charted out by Canadian academics and business groups, mostly in the wake of Sept. 11. They cover everything from the legal system to labour markets. The Canadian Council of Chief Executives, for one, is proposing new political structures for a deeper partnership, streamlined business security boards, and a comprehensive economic security pact.

These are all worthwhile endeavours, but it is now clear that many will not be acceptable. Groups that would do whatever it takes to foster economic advantage are as out of step with Canadian voters as nationalist groups fomenting against trade pacts. What happens if economic proposals run contrary to values? Grosse speculates that values will come first. So plans to integrate energy policies, no matter how attractive to the U.S., are likely anathema here. But any move to increase the border or work together on the environment is welcome. "The emerging model seems to be a cautious marketplace with a societal mooring," says Grosse. Martin should note the U.S. administration with bemeddled constitutional—but be very wary of its embrace.

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. [mary.janigan.com](http://mary.janigan.com) is her regular column.

## FaceTime



By Jeff Kopp

Glen Aiken Sings, a devoted admirer of Rick Warren's *One Voice*, took home a Governor General's Award for children's literature. The guy said his book was the best. "I was the only one who said that," he says. "I was the only one who said that."

Warren's book, *One Voice*, is a collection of stories about people who are making a difference in the world. It's a book that's been on the bestseller list for over a year. It's a book that's been translated into 10 languages. It's a book that's been read by millions of people. It's a book that's been praised by everyone who's read it.



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## OnSpec

Whether Maslow's

Pyramid of Needs is a useful tool for understanding human behavior, or just a collection of ideas, it's a book that's been on the bestseller list for over a year. It's a book that's been translated into 10 languages. It's a book that's been read by millions of people. It's a book that's been praised by everyone who's read it.

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## WORLD

**IDENTITY CARDS** France moved a step closer to compulsory ID by requiring its citizens to supply fingerprints, and other biometric information like an iris scan, for passports after 2007. L'Espresso's home secretary said he expects national identity cards, which would help fight terrorism and fraud, to be largely in place in 10 years' time—but only if parliament approves the measure in a later vote.

**RELIGION** A French parliamentary panel recommended banning all religious symbols—including Islamic headscarves, crucifixes and skullcaps—in schools, adding to a debate that has been growing in intensity for months. Incidents like the expulsion of Muslim girls from class for wearing the headscarf caused President Jacques Chirac to launch a formal inquiry into the separation of church and state.

**BABY FOOD** A food or baby food that appears to lack enough of the key vitamin B12, known as *vitamin D*, was pulled from the shelves in Israel after two infants died and nearly 20 others became seriously ill. German prosecutors have since launched a criminal investigation into companies at the company where the product was made.

**GEORGIA** The military was called out and President Eduard Shevardnadze warned of a civil war. Undermined, at least 10,000



**REMEMBERED** With the world thinking it is and war's wounds just... heal themselves, larger than life events remind us that the world is not so simple. In Canada, in 1982, soldiers from 25,000 who paid their taxes and fought in the war in Vietnam, in 1982, a movement was started by the ex-Canadian soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan, while in Vietnam, soldiers carried the burden of yet another soldier, with a white uniform, who died in Vietnam. They were then in 1982.

Georgians continue of their weaker form protest aimed at forcing out the once-popular president for allegedly rigging parliamentary elections on Nov. 2.

**HATE** The number of hate crimes in the U.S. dropped sharply in 2002 following an

upward post-Sept. 11 spike in 2001 directed at Muslims and Arabs. Jews remain more likely targets of anti-religious attacks than Muslims, according to the FBI report.

**GUATEMALA** The U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether 36 foreign nationals, held as inmate prisoners of war at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, can apply to American courts for habeas corpus. Also, in a rare break in the talks, Spain's foreign minister admonished the U.S. for its indefinite detention of terror suspects at Guantánamo as a "major error."

**ELECTIONS** Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats squeaked to a minority government as the first term of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi since he assumed the party leadership two years ago. The national elections also strengthened the opposition Democrats at the expense of smaller fringe parties.

**MIDDLE EAST** New Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia finally has a cabinet, two months into a power struggle with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Qureia is now set to meet with Israeli counterpart Ariel Sharon,

BY GRADIE MACKAY

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but find it unlikely that Arafat still controls the Palestinian security apparatus.

## BUSINESS

**AM CANADA** The bankrupt national carrier wants a new partner—Victor Li, the Chinese-Canadian tycoon whose father Li Ka-shing is one of the richest men in Hong Kong. If approved by the bankruptcy judge, Li's \$450-million offer will give him 31 per cent of the airline and the right to name five of the company's 11 directors.

**STEEL** The World Trade Organization ruled that U.S. tariffs on exported steel were unfair and harmful to trade. The White House has not said whether it will rescind the tariffs. It's doubtful it would leave U.S. exporters facing nearly \$3 billion in retaliation.

## CANADA

**LAWYERS** Maher Arar, the Syrian-born Canadian who spent almost a year in a so-called Guantanamo prison, is planning to sue American authorities to find out why



**CANNIBAL CURSE** Ten Australian descendants of Methodist missionary Rev. Thomas Barker, killed and eaten by villagers in the remote Kpik community of Nabalutia in 1917, received a formal apology and gifts of fine spinners' wheels in a diorama ceremony designed to lift ill-fated villagers' spirits, that has left them poor and mocked by other tribes.

they sent him there after a stopover in New York, rather than to his home in Ottawa. In a similar vein, William Sampson, the Canadian businessman who spent 31 months in a Saudi jail on questionable criminal

charges, said he would sue the Canadian government unless it called a formal inquiry into how it handled his case.

**SENTENCING** Three 15-year-old girls from Sylvest Lake, Alta., were sentenced to 60 days in a youth facility and 18 months' probation for spilling a classmate's shoes with toxic chemicals from science class. The three had been charged with attempted murder, but pleaded guilty in August to administering a noxious substance.

A 17-year-old Newfoundland girl, who gave birth at home just over a year ago and put her newborn in a garbage bag because she said the infant was blue and not breathing, was sentenced to 90 hours of community service and told to get counselling. The baby girl was alive, but was later found crushed at a landfill after a frantic search of Fogo Island.

**KIDNEY** Quebec is looking at ways to compensate people who donate one of their kidneys, usually to a family member who is dying of kidney disease. The money would not be a reward but compensation for time taken off work and help with rehab.

**SEWAGE** After decades of political delay, work finally began on a sewage treatment plant for Halifax harbour. The \$300-million project, however, only deals with what's called primary treatment of large particles. Sell, of Canada's large cities, is lower only Victoria and St. John's as the two that do not treat their waste water or sewage before dumping it into the ocean.

**INQUIRY** Ontario Justice Sidney Linden is to lead a long-promised inquiry into the disappearance of Dudley George, a native prisoner killed during a confrontation with Ontario police at Ipperwash park in 1995 during the early months of the Mike Harris Conservative government.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** Two cancer drugs, Tamoxifen and Femastrol, which are used alongside radiation treatment, are in short supply in Canada because of Internet exports to the U.S., according to two group representing Manitoba pharmacists. They raised the alarm at two more states, Minnesota and North Dakota, joined Illinois in saying they wanted to buy cheaper prescription drugs from Canada for their health plans.



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## UPFRONT

### Mansbridge on the Record



## FORTY YEARS AFTER JFK

The sixties generation thinks it was a pivotal era. Kids today are unimpressed.

FROM the sixth floor window, the plaza looks smaller than you expect: it seems possible that a barely raised voice could easily attract attention from passersby below. And standing on the grassy rooftop holds the nearby park way leaves you convinced that you could reach out and touch someone going by it, say, a trip down an escalator. Television can make things look out of proportion when it comes to dimensions, and this location, 40 years after its history-making moment, feels different due to the images frozen in the minds of those who grew up watching them in black and white. I had been writing an entry in my Ottawa high school when the shooting took place in Dallas's Dealey Plaza. Access granted, I rushed home and spent four days in front of our Sylvain TV, watching—sometimes weeping—with Walter Cronkite. It would be five years before I thought seriously of what job I'd want in life, but those days in November 1963 must have had an impact.

Forty years. For the generation that, in some ways, was launched by the Kennedy presidency, the latest John F. Kennedy as a politician is extremely tricky to have, you're reaching for the anti-aging cream. And when doing how to answer the question: were the sixties as important as we like to think?

It was an energetic time, underlined by

JFK's call to "ask not what your country can do for you" but what you could do for it. That message spread across borders, inspiring people, including Canadians, with a sense of public service. Ask John Turner, the Assembly brothers, Lloyd and Tim, or others who entered public life at least partly because of the Kennedy influence.

Trudeauism was, at some level, an extension of the same fervour. But Kennedy's inspirational impact was, of course, most evident when his own country's best results included his taking of the Peace Corps, the struggle for civil rights, the promise to land people on the moon before the end of the sixties. Not everything worked, with Vietnam at the top of that list. But all helped mould generations. So did Kennedy's death in Dallas, and later, the killings of brother Robert and African American leaders Martin Luther King.

I remember talking, about a year ago, with one of the bright interpreters of the current generation—MachMach's George Stroumboulis. We were comparing the activism of sixties youth with those coming of age now, especially in light of the then approaching war in Iraq. After all, the Vietnam conflict had prompted vigorous protest movements in music, film and politics—while young people in the post-9/11 world seemed relatively quiet. At one point, I asked Stroumboulis whether he and his peers ever tired of having their misadventures in the sixties. He didn't miss a beat. "We'd remind a lot less if you people had done something lately."

Back to Dallas, on the outside fence wall of the Texas School Book Depository building, where the Warren Commission found that Lee Harvey Oswald, leaning on one of those sixth floor windows, had pulled the trigger that ended a "winning moment" in U.S. history, there was already said plaque. Stroumboulis, given what he said, you'd think should be bigger. But part of the work is the reworking of Nov. 22, 1963, a writing: "when Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly shot and killed President John F. Kennedy." Conspiracy theories must have the badge, but it seems strangely out of place.

Peter Mansbridge is Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of The National. He can be reached at [pmansbridge@cbc.ca](mailto:pmansbridge@cbc.ca).

### Passages

**BORN** Sophie, Countess of Wessex, gave birth to a boy girl by emergency Caesarean. The first child for Sophie, 34, and Edward, 36, the Queen's youngest son, the baby remains in hospital and was not immediately named. She arrived a month premature.

**HONORARIO** Toronto scientist Tak Maki, a leading cancer researcher and a Macleod's honor roll recipient, became the first Canadian to win Germany's highest award for biomedical research. Maki, 57, is to share the \$53,000 prize with an American researcher for their pioneering work on how the body attacks virus-infected cells.

**WON** Montreal's Eric Gagné, a hard-slugging closer with the Los Angeles Dodgers, was the National League's Cy Young award winner for best pitcher who could almost be called a Canadian.



Music play: Toronto's Jay McInerney, 37, won the American League's Cy Young award. Gagné, 27, is the second Canadian to win a Cy Young after Reggie Jenkins in 1975.

**WON** Ontario-born Douglas Glosier, 55, was the Governor General's Literary Award for English-language fiction for his novel *Ed*, an account of a woman one way or another in the St. Lawrence River in 1952 after getting pregnant during the voyage from France. University of Toronto historian Margaret MacMillan, 60, won the non-fiction category for her study of power, *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World*.

**DIED** As rubber-fused Ed Norton, comic actor Art Carney was the perfect foil to Jackie Gleason in TV's long-running *Honey-eyes* during the 1950s. He also won an Academy Award for his portrayal of the widower who sets out on a journey with his cat in the 1974 film *Harry and the Tenth Commandment*. Carney was 85 when he died after a long illness in Connecticut.

Cytle Wessendahl, wife of Nain Hunter, passed away at her own home, was 95. She died in Vienna. She and her husband had 10 family members in the Holocaust.

“

What did he think of the sixties? He didn't miss a beat. 'We'd remind a lot less if you people had done something lately.'"



## World | Rethinking Iraq as terror rears up again

In one of the deadliest weeks of the U.S.-led war on terror, the anger and anxiety mounted as quickly as the casualties. And they were considerable. A suicide attack in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killed at least 18 people and wounded more 123 others—seven of them Canadian, while in Iraq, a truck bomber killed at least 32, including 18 Iraqi soldiers and officials in a compound in An Najaf. *Al Qaeda* was quick to claim responsibility for the Saudi blast, though it may yet prove a strategic mistake. Unlike a similar assault in May 2003 that killed 34 people, among them eight Americans, last week's at-

tack destroyed a largely Arab compound and the carnage left Saudis appalled.

In Iraq, the Italian toll—the highest among America's coalition partners—further underscored Washington's allies. The U.S. responded with a pair of fierce airstrikes, signaling a new and more aggressive strategy. But elsewhere, Japan said it was set a suitable time to send its peacekeeping forces to Iraq, and South Korea quickly followed suit.

The White House had been hoping for other nations to shoulder some of the Iraq burden, but with allies falling by the wayside—Spain, the Netherlands and Bulgaria have

already moved their representatives from Baghdad—George W. Bush changed tactics. He hailed Paul Bremer, the U.S. administrator in Iraq, back to Washington and ordered him to accelerate a return to Iraqi self-rule, with elections if possible by next summer, something that Canada and others have been urging. It's a daunting administrative task, and it's also unclear whether ballots can replace bombs in a country where resistance to the U.S. is growing day by day.

During a raid, a U.S. soldier (top) stands by an Iraqi body left in ruins of one of the blast sites in Riyadh (left); the suicide attack on the Shiite compound

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# MARTIN'S TO-DO LIST

He'd better develop an appetite for fixing our infrastructure, says PAUL WELLS

**FUNNY HOW SOMETIMES YOU DON'T NOTICE** the decisions you're making until after you've been making them for a while. Early in 2000, Norman Bettin stood in the New Brunswick legislature as finance minister in the brand-new government of Bernard Lord's Conservatives. Bettin announced he was passing the province's money where the people wanted it: health care, education, tax cuts.

What he mentioned only in passing was how he was going to pay for all the sexy stuff by spending a lot less on less sexy stuff. The province's infrastructure budget took a \$100-

million cut that year. As wide as Lord said last week that the infrastructure budget—which pays for roads, parks, sewers, and the rest of the province's essential capital stock—has inched upward in every subsequent budget, that it isn't up to its 1999 level. The province's health care budget, meanwhile, has continued to suffer from big increases in big increases.

Multiply the New Brunswick experience across every government jurisdiction in Canada and across a couple of decades of policy-making decisions. The result is the most astounding number of expenses on Canada is in a massive infrastructure debt—that's the gap between what has been spent on infrastructure and what should have been spent—which translates into clogged roads, deteriorating cities and decaying sewers. Estimates of the total infrastructure debt run as high as \$120 billion.

And just as the federal budget debt grew deeper for decades before 1996, the infrastructure debt is getting bigger every year. A recent study by the Canada West Foundation looked at the 2003 infrastructure deficit for the six big western Canadian cities

(Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg) alone. For those six cities, the gap for a single year was \$564 million.

"It's a crisis we can no longer afford to ignore," stated Miles, a professor of civil engineering at McGill University, says. Road quality directly affects trade. Traffic jams feed the air. "Pipes," Miles said, "are so perforated that we are losing 30 per cent or more of the purified water."

And if something nasty like bacteria or parasites got into those pipes? The national

water supplies in Wellston, Ore., and North Battleford, Sask., would look like only a dress rehearsal for the full-blown epidemic that could ensue, Miles said.

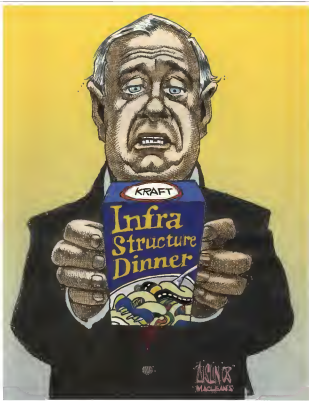
So welcome to your new job, Paul Martin. Canada's public infrastructure is only one of the challenges facing a new head of government intent on making his party seem shiny and new after a decade in power. And while it may seem an odd angle on the job, Liberator handed him last Friday in Toronto, it's a pretty good introduction of the tough decisions Martin will have to make every day.

Now, living paycheques and sewers is hardly the most glamorous of the myriad priorities nagging at a new prime minister's attention. Last week the *Maclean's*, a newspaper for Ottawa's parliamentary precinct, asked more than two dozen experts—economy, jobs, members of Parliament and so on—what Martin's top three priorities should be. Dozens of topics were named, from parliamentary reform to debt reduction to fixing Canada's relationship with the United States.

Only two of the experts mentioned spending on infrastructure.

But it's precisely because it's unpleasant that Canada's public infrastructure isn't such a new. Government after government has allowed the nation's plumbing to be pushed down the list of priorities.

Cathy Vander Ploeg is a senior policy analyst for the Canada West Foundation. He wrote that study about the infrastructure deficit in Canada's big six western cities. He



## Great Expectations

**“The key thing is to demonstrate that people are heard and their views taken into account. The difficulty now is that the decision-making takes place out of sight. Even if we don't like the outcome, we have to be able to see the debate was real.”**

WILLIAM GORDON, PRESIDENT OF THE CANADA WEST FOUNDATION

was struck by what he discovered when he examined four decades' worth of financial reports from those cities.

In the 1960s and early '70s, he writes, the first item in every city's annual report was a detailed account of the capital budget—how much was spent on municipal roads and parks and so on. But by the 1980s, capital-spending schedules were tucked deep inside the reports—or vanished altogether.

"In the 1960s and 1970s, civic leaders wanted to draw attention to the fact that they were actively building their cities," Vander Ploeg writes. But by the 1980s their attention and their pride focused on program spending and operating budgets: social-assistance programs, day-care, insurance classes at the parks and recreation department.

The cities, in short, were spending more on people and less on stuff. Just as Bernard Lord's government did after the 1999 election, just as all Canadian governments have done for decades.

Vander Ploeg writes: "If the public capital investment been squandered out by continual demands for more government program spending—such as social services, health care or business subsidies."

"Are Canadians simply too focused on consuming the national wealth today rather than investing it to protect and even increase potential consumption in the future?"

Several experts interviewed by Maclean's suggest that's precisely what's been happening. Canada has been acting like a homeowner who spends an ever-increasing amount

## Toronto | Dear Santa Paul

You know that expression: "We can't get there from here"? It pretty much describes Toronto these days.

During the run-up to last week's municipal election, there was lots of blather about how we should all use more public transportation. I couldn't agree more—in theory. But Toronto's transit system has been cash-starved for years. The buses, subway cars and streetcars we have are too few, too old and need their axles oiled. Sometimes



You can't take public transit when it's out of service.

I think it would be faster to get my old Flyer out of the basement than to ride the Rocket.

I suppose I could drive my car, but I fear for its undercarriage. The streets have all gone to pot (holes). And I'm not so keen any more about driving to Kitchener and Kingston and the lake, traffic—talk about dogged arteries. This isn't just about inconvenience: Ontario's ministry of municipal affairs last issued a report saying end-

lock costs the Toronto and Hamilton area economy \$3 billion a year.

At least I liked the announcement last week that you guys in Ottawa will build a new rail line capable of whisking people from downtown to Pearson International Airport in just 25 minutes. But I wonder—by the time it's completed in 2008, will Air Canada still be flying?

Yours, going nowhere fast, BARBARA WICKENS

of his budget on groceries and health-club memberships, ignoring his leaking far faucet and rotting roof.

In 1968, Canada's federal, provincial and municipal governments between them were devoting about 20 per cent of their budgets to land and mortar. By 2002 the figure

had fallen to less than 10 per cent. International comparisons suggest Canada has turned most decisively away from infrastructure spending than many competing countries. Figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development show that in 2000, the public and private sectors in Canada spent less on public investment than many of Canada's European and American neighbours—but not substantially more on government consumption.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities found that in 1996 the average municipal infrastructure spending for Cana-

### Great Expectations

"Disability is a big issue. People shouldn't have to feel that, as soon as they start making money, they're going to lose all the things they need to keep them in the community: attendant care, transportation and housing."

JOHN DUGAN, CEO, WINDSORIA CITY DEVELOPMENT WHO IS QUEENSLAND

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Like his advisors, lots of people will be at Martel's door with suggestions for what he should do.



da was \$1,180 per capita. For the United States, the comparable figure was \$2,480. And for an average of 43 European countries it was \$3,198.

You can live a lot of stuff with that extra money. Last month the outgoing Chrétien and incoming Martin camps engaged in a late-incoming feud over the wisdom of Transport Minister David Colquhoun's plan to spend \$700 million to prepare Via Rail's Windsor-Quebec City train corridor for a possible switch to high-speed rail service. There is room to debate that decision. Some experts argue that even if that \$700 million is spent on transport infrastructure, it should be spent elsewhere—improving public transit in Montreal or Vancouver, for instance.

But the European Union has budgeted 220 billion euros—about \$337 billion, or 470 times what Colquhoun proposed—for new transport development from now to 2020.

Nike trains come in handy in a global economy, because they permit consultants or vendors to travel with a minimum of fuss between, say, Warsaw and Stuttgart. They help a nation meet its Kyoto accord on emissions to limit greenhouse-gas emissions, because when traffic flows smoothly it creates less carbon dioxide.

Here in Canada, meanwhile, Canada-U.S. trade has tripled since the Free Trade Agreement of 1986, but the country's transport infrastructure hasn't begun to keep pace. Roads into major cities most mornings are parking lots for hours on end. Rural roads in Saskatchewan that used to be paved have been converted back to gravel—and the locals are delighted, because at least gravel is better than an endless parade of potholes.

But inadequate infrastructure spending isn't just about lost opportunity. It can be about ballooning cost, too.

Remember we imported Canada to a homeowner who donates his entire monthly budget to operating costs instead of upkeep? Soon enough both the homeowner and the nation ran into a hole of thumb-screws called De Sitter's Law of Five: major repairs can be expected to cost roughly five times what routine maintenance would have cost if you'd fixed it up. And all-out replacement will cost five times what repair would have cost. The longer you defer your capital spending, the bigger the bill when it finally does come due.

So far, even Canada's government didn't

## Montreal | Dear Santa Paul

You have a mining office in Montreal so, undoubtedly, you have been made aware of the fact that Quebecers have stopped being a threat—even in sequence—to the rest of Canada. That's mostly because they're too busy contemplating if that's not working in their own favour.

Ask your child how about the roads. Those that aren't closed for urgent repairs become bottlenecks—and next year the bottlenecks will be closed for urgent repairs. But you can't help us with these, can you? Most roads in a provincial jurisdiction.

Being stuck in traffic is a part of our life. But if you're driving to a hospital with a badly cut finger, waiting on the bridges is only a dress rehearsal for the real wait at an emergency ward. And that just in. Scores of Minoreans have obtained Quebec health insurance using false information. This includes up to 12 people at the same Montreal address. Health ministry officials won't confirm all this, of course—but then it's bureaucrats who lost track of more than 100,000 babies born in Quebec hospitals over the years. They say they lack resources to cross-check names and addresses. I know there is little you could do about our health-care mess—provincial jurisdiction.

The previous Parti Québécois government forced wealthy suburbs to merge into the banlieue-style new called Montreal City Hall. Now the bars want to de-merge. The richest ones are mostly English-speaking, so you can see the agony of the problem growing here. But hey, what can Ottawa do about this local problem?

The Constitution is written in such a way that the things bothering us daily are in the lap of the provincial government. Small wonder Quebecers tend to see Quebec City as their "real" government. Quebecers are more reluctant than other Canadians to ask for Ottawa's help. We have a word for that help here: we call it intrusion—especially if Ottawa insists on monitoring how the money is being spent.

When Ottawa decided to "help" us nonetheless, we got Minister of Transport Jean Charest to make money—and the relocation of Quebec City's Old Port, an architectural sacrifice at a wonderful time—because, besides, we already have a former federal politician busy reorganizing the public service here, meaning picking down everything. That's because Jean Charest's government is broke. So here's your opportunity, sir/ma'am as money, no strings attached, we'll be so busy musing with it that we'll continue to leave Canada alone for a long while. With the country thus saved indefinitely, you are a show-in for the foreseeable future.

Yours, BENOÎT AUBIN



Jacques Cartier would be so proud

ing while they let the nation's physical plant decay? Were they mad?

Not at all. They were responding rationally, or at least understandably, to life in a world where dollars are scarce but the wealth of the voter can be infinite.

Recall Vonder Plog's observation that in francophone spending could speed as a public priority in the 1980s. That's when Canada's governments and economies began to be concerned with ballooning budget deficits. Spending had to be reined in, then cut drastically. How do you decide what to cut?

As much as possible, you protect spend-

ing on program people will cut us, such as health care and unemployment insurance. "People protest," Vonder Plog said. "Shouldn't they?"

Of course, social programs took a nasty hit in several provinces even before Martin's 1995 budget announced deep cuts to the program. Ottawa sends the provinces for such spending. The hard times only accelerated after that budget. So it probably didn't feel as though programs on people were being slashed from cuts. Sure enough, people protested in the 1997 election, anger over social programs can cut the Liberals more

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## Calgary | Dear Santa Paul

First off, let me say how very much we Prairie dwellers appreciate what you have already done to reach out and feel the pain of our farmers and ranchers. We're still buzzing about that visit you made to the Edmonton Stockyards in October to commiserate about the continuing fallout from the discovery of a single Alberta cow-walting from bovine spongiform encephalopathy, otherwise known as mad cow disease. As one cattleman breathlessly told a local reporter that day, "There has never been a prime minister in the history of Canada that ever came to the stockyards."

Certainly not that fellow you're replacing, you know, the Grinch from Shovel Knight. Why, he's hardly said boo this past six months about a crisis that has devastated an industry that generated \$7.5 billion in cattle farm-cash receipts last year, of which \$2.5 billion came from Alberta. Some of us are unkind enough to suspect that things might have been different had the mad cow participated in the British phone poll. What's that, you say? You're from Quebec, too? Oh well, we're sure you have a much broader view of these matters.

For example, those of us who follow farm news know about that letter you sent to Canadian Federation of Agriculture president Bob Friesen in July, which he read into the record at the federation's semi-annual meeting in Charlottetown. "Policy development is not something to be done 'to' or 'for' farmers," you wrote, "but 'with' and 'by' them." Boy, did we ever like the sound of that out here. Especially after dealing for six years with the Grinch's agriculture minister, Iley Winfield. A hard-worker, earnest guy, to be sure, but also someone who clearly prefers to decree rather than consult.

But here's the rub, Santa Paul. In your letter, and your subsequent visit to the stockyards, you were sort of vague about what you'd do to address all the challenges facing rural Canada. You know, like those pesky export and domestic subsidies farmers in other countries receive, which serve to skew the world price our guys can command for their grains and livestock. You also haven't held much by the reins about what many agriculture leaders say should be a top priority: developing a new set of farm safety-net programs that would automatically kick in with temporary compensation when something like the mad cow crisis strikes.

Not to worry, we are, for the time being, willing to give you the benefit of the doubt. As Winfield, a wary and lanky farmer from southwestern Manitoba, observes, the new spirit of co-operation you are promoting is something "farmers will welcome with open arms." But please, Santa Paul, don't be like the Grinch exclusive us with a pig-in-a-poke. Yours, BRIAN BERGMAN

than half their seats in Atlantic Canada.

But as governments' fiscal health improved, they'll all over the machine to reinvest in social programs, with health care, the yellow alpha male of money-sucking budget priorities, overwhelming everything else. The federal Liberal 2006 election, one "maxi-budget" devoted \$23.4 billion over the years to new health spending. The premier never stopped arguing that wasn't enough. So the 2003 budget devoted a further \$34.4 billion over five years. Jean Chrétien had barely announced that figure before the pre-arranged news saying that still wasn't enough.

### Great Expectations

There are lots of high hopes. Martin has campaigned on a new deal for cities and we could sure use his help out here. He's going to have to work very hard to earn the support of Albertans but I think we will give him that opportunity.

CALGARY MYRBY DAVE BROCKHOFF

They will be back at Martin's door.

Not that the provinces' concerns were insurmountable. Provincial health-care spending has increased even faster than federal contributions. In some provinces the health care budget has grown from about 25 per cent of total program spending to more than 40 per cent.

Critique that with the Canada Infrastructure Works program the Chretien Liberals' empire entered every few years since 1994, typically about \$1 billion a year to leverage another billion from the provinces and another billion from municipalities. It would be another to call \$3 billion a year change charge that if you pucker along at that rate for very long, one day you realize your competitors are beating you silly.

In the U.S., Washington and some state governments have lately run into a money fiscal crunch that has slowed an extended infrastructure buying spree. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, or TEA-21, provided \$152.18 billion in federal money for highway and transit projects between 1998 and 2003.

The European's budget balance is deteriorating too, but in the meantime they are spending like wild, Europe as well as the 220-billion-euro transit bill, part of the 213 billion euros earmarked for the 2006-2006 insurance of the EU Structural Funds will go to an infrastructure program target all at the contractor's poorer regions.

As Vander Ploeg notes, a 1999 report by the International Institute for Management Development in Switzerland ranked Canada 43rd for the quality of its roads, 43rd for its railways, 15th in energy. Canada can catch better in high-tech infrastructure. The Canada Foundation for Innovation has poured billions into the nation's computer research hubs as spawning life researchers. There is much to admire in that choice. But as McCall's Mitrovic says, "Science or last you have to put your high-tech talent in a



Martin taking stock in Edmonton

truck and deliver it on a road."

The good news is that Paul Martin isn't demanding that race of affairs. The bad news is that the pressure on him to look down here will be intense.

Anyone wondering why Martin has become an ardent advocate of a "New Deal for Cities" should be starting to figure it out by now. Poor Canadians in five live in cities. The bulk of the infrastructure gap, although by no means all of it, has accumulated in Canada's cities. Revenue from property taxes, which provide a disproportionate share of municipal revenues, fails to grow when the economy—and voters' expectations—do. Two-year infrastructure programs are now less of a mayor's deciding whether to begin a 15-year upgrade to his sewer system.

After years of gauding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and several prominent mayors, Martin has come to embrace the idea of guaranteeing municipalities a fixed share of federal gas-tax revenue. That would take care of cities' qualms about the political/ethical transfers and about the way property-tax revenue declines during an economic boom.

What if your address is in the other side of the infrastructure gap? "The don't answer is, it's not sufficient," kind of Phog said. "It's a step in the right direction." It's a big step. That depends on Martin's ability to shield infrastructure spending from all the other demands on the public purse. "No matter how long it takes," Martin told the Union of B.C. Municipalities, "we are going to provide Canadian municipalities with a portion of the federal gas tax."

Great. How long? What portion? Martin will get back to us on that. "Just how much tax room is wanted by the federal government, and at what price, will have to be negotiated depending on the state of the government's finances," he told the FCM in Winnipeg. The state of finances, in turn, depends on the state of other promises Martin has embraced: new tax cuts, education, research, and so Africa, military helicopter CB, and still more money for health care.

He has back on his side, in the form of an opposition consensus that he's not serious about cities James Moore, the Canadian

## Vancouver | Dear Santa Paul

Here in B.C., the scariest sentence in the English language is, "I'm from Ottawa and I'm here to help." So, your pledge to care Western alienation is welcome—with reservations. Many fear there may be a reciprocal obligation to elect Liberal MPs, and what's the fun in that? A favourite pastime here is burning gas while idling in traffic jams, listening to talk-radio hosts lay a beating on the federal body politic.

Alienated folks get restless. It's a rare meeting at Vancouver city council that doesn't range far beyond such traditional local issues as roads, utilities and transit. Homelessness and welfare cuts are frequently thrust on the agenda by the left-leaning council under Mayor Larry Campbell. So is the Iraq war, globalization and the restructuring of B.C. Hydro. These are bad and Vancouver wants them fixed, please.

Going to work was another B.C. pastime, but the ones that didn't seem up, or went wrong in the floods, or got eaten by pine beetles, are full of homeless people. The more



A washed-out road near Victoria last month.

plague of cabinet ministers. People complained the fire insurance was slow in coming. Then the feds made a \$300-million partial payment. Now some grumble the cheque would be bigger if not for all those high flying Ottawa policy boys. A Liberal out here just can't win. Still, people like Mark Louie, mayor of the Victoria suburb of Saanich and president of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, is among those asking you, Santa. You'll recall the standing order you received in November in September while addressing the group's annual meeting) toward

with them, inspired by your promise to give local governments a portion of the bi-annual low federal income tax cut. Louie thinks you understood the problem: the property tax base alone is insufficient for today's cities to fill all their needs. The infrastructure grant program also has serious limits. "It helps to buy a bus," Louie says, "it doesn't help us run it."

So, think, he wants to know how much you're offering. And he wants something else, too. It seems that the West Coast perspective finally has a place in the national agenda.

Oh, and fix that softwood lumber war with the U.S., it's killing us.

Cheers, GIN MACPHERSON

## Great Expectations

“Softwood lumber. That’s the No. 1 issue in our area. For Mr. Martin to please look hard at how to resolve, constructively, the softwood lumber deal,

AND THE OTHER VANCOUVER-RELATED JEREMIAH WAS BY JIMMY MOORE, WHO ONCE INTRODUCED MARTIN’S FISCAL PLAN, SERVING TO A.C.’S BUSINESS ELITE

Alliance’s transportation critic, dismisses Martin’s urban renewal plans. So does Jack Layton, the NDP leader and an even more formidable opponent on this file because he was president of the FCM when it made infrastructure a national issue. The threat of trouble from across the aisle has historically been the surest spur to Liberal action.

But the supply of dollars will never come close to matching the supply of demands. The hard choice about how to allocate dollars are now Martin’s. Don’t cry for him; he volunteered for the job. There will be days when he will wonder why. □



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## HIGH-STAKES LEADERSHIP

Paul Martin has a proven track record as a gambler who wins



HISTORY NEVER repeats itself, but it teaches lessons.

The last time the Liberal Party of Canada renewed itself was in 1968, when Pierre Trudeau took over and began his 16-year reign. John Turner, who succeeded him, occurred too precariously a hold on the party to make it his own, while Jean Chrétien, who assumed the leadership in 1990, won the three elections that followed simply by emphasizing that he wasn't Brian Mulroney, Preston Manning or Stockwell Day.

Captivated by the Trudeau legend, most Canadians have forgotten that Lucky Pierre

wasn't the Liberal party's natural choice as that former leadership race. It took four hard-fought ballots for him to wrestle the leadership (with only 38.1 per cent of the vote) from the party machine, lined up behind Robert Winson, a hard-right candidate who had the advantage of familiarity among the delegates.

It was only after the convention and dur-

ing the election which followed, that Trudeau renounced the Liberal party to suit his political ambitions. Although his flamboyant style was due to a radical reformer, his legislative record established the Grits as serious politicians with a mission. Which is precisely what Paul Martin's first task will be: he must rapidly rebuild

his drive to live up to Martin Sr.'s legacy.

the Liberals as a party dedicated to change, reform and new policy directions, endowing it with some higher sense of purpose than merely perpetuating itself in power.

That was the missing element during Jean Chrétien's interminable term. His three-party election victories were based on nothing more inspiring than the inability of his opponents to field credible alternatives. That inattention to the future has left the Liberals devoid of new initiatives deserving of a mandate next spring. With the right will and a revived NDP, Canada's "natural governing party" can no longer expect to win by default. Nor should it.

Because he has had to be so painfully disconcerted over the past year in order to pro-

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PETER C. NEWMAN | >

vent Chrétien from losing his temper and pulling the plug to take a fourth run at the brass ring, Martin must now hastily fill the policy gap. At the very least, the new leader must clearly demonstrate his potential for growth, which shouldn't prove too difficult. What Canada desperately needs, if this country is serious about becoming a player in the globalized, digitalized, urbanized and specialized economic environment of the 21st century, is a regime change, almost as profound as Iraq's, though a lot less bloody. We are emerging from 10 lost years, when Chrétien's one-man style of government prevented Canada from being seriously considered as anything but an unruly and irrelevant backwater, run for the selfish benefit of his PM's narrow view of the country and the world.

Catching up will require Martin to reinvent his governing strategy. He gambled against heavy odds in 1981 when he acquired Canada's Shipping Lines from Paul Desmarais's Power Corp. in a leveraged buyout that extended his personal financial exposure beyond reasonable limits. He gambled more dangerously when he set out to steal the party from Chrétien's self-selected leadership, a tactic common enough among Tories, but such a coup d'état had never been attempted during the Liberals' long and successful history of dominating Canadian politics by ruling with discreet efficiency.

In policy terms, Martin gambled most outrageously in 1995 when, as finance minister, he brought in down a controversial budget that reversed the country's monetary approach to governing. Up until his harsh edicts came into force, Canadians had enjoyed living in a fiscal Disneyland. They appeared to go on enjoying the woody nation that they would retain universal access to social welfare largesse as an unalienable right, even when Ottawa was clearly heading for bankruptcy. At the time, the federal debt (growing at more than \$100 million a day) was the equivalent of 93 per cent of the country's gross domestic product. In other words, the International Monetary Fund was being called in to enforce draconian cost-cutting measures where that ratio had reached 100 per cent, a level only months away from triggering a debt crisis.

Martin reduced federal government expenditures to 1950s proportions (as a per-



As business did, Martin will have to remake the Liberal party to suit his priorities.

centage of GDP), slashed social programs and eliminated tens of thousands of public service jobs, ending Canada's age of entitlement. "The Martin budget smashes the cradle of Canada as we know it," declared Bob Rae, then Ontario's socialist premier. And it did, but it also saved the country. Under Martin's focused management, the federal budget has been balanced since 1996, when it showed the first surplus in 28 years. The current debt-to-GDP ratio is less than 50 per cent.

What was admirable about this exercise of fiscal legerdemain was Martin's political finesse.

**WHAT** Canada needs desperately is a regime change, almost as profound as Iraq's, though a lot less bloody.

in making the machine go down. The Liberals' post-budget popularity actually went up and Martin was hailed as the hero of an otherwise laggard administration, which was what triggered Chrétien's blood feud with his finance minister in the first place. "It was a false dawn budget," Angus Reid, then the country's top pollster, told me, "as brilliant in its pre-selling as in its execution."

The expectations for Paul Martin have climbed as high as that he is bound to fail, but his record indicates otherwise. He has been preparing for this job, long before he stole the Liberal party out from under its faltering leader. In September 1992, when Paul Martin Sr., the social architect of the Liberal government of the 1960s and 1980s, was on his deathbed, there was a final family gathering. The father named in the son of the same name and solemnly predicted: "I was the father of Canada's social revolution; you will create the country's economic revolution."

What's driving the younger Paul, now 65, is his steady determination to live up to his father's legacy. On Sept. 17, 1992, Paul Martin Sr. was buried with full honours in Windsor, Ont., the hometown that he named into his own budgeted. In a four-bishop and a dozen priests in officio at his funeral service, his body was borne away by no less than 75 knights of Calatrava, done up in black suits and red capes. I was there and thought I saw the young Martin family nodding toward the coffin, in confirmation of his destiny. "It was," I wrote at the time, "less the burial of a man than a generation."

Now it's time for Justin to play his chips.

Peter C. Newman's opinion is a member of the editorial board of the *Maclean's*.



Photo Essay | BY PETER BRIGG

## SCENES FROM '68

When Martin's father made his third bid for the leadership, it was not to be

**AT THE FEDERAL** Liberal convention in April 1968, another Mar arrived for the party leadership. It was Paul Martin Sr.'s third bid, and victory was not to be. The contest ended after the fourth ballot, when a slim, modest wonderst from Quebec named Pierre Elliott Trudeau won, replacing Lester B. Pearson and launching a wave of Trudeau mania that, in the election that followed in June, resulted in the Liberals winning a 154-seat majority in the then 264-seat House.

Martin's Chief Photographer Peter Brigg, whose work is featured on these pages, was at that convention as a 19-year-old Canadian Press photographer. Brigg recalls thinking how odd it was that delegates wore hats and badges openly proclaiming their preferences, then voted by secret ballot. Brigg also remembers a little-known fact: one of the speakers was Holocaust denier Ernst Zündel, then a controversial artist in Montreal who was finally on the ballot before dropping out (he is now facing deportation from Canada). And while Paul Martin Jr. was at the convention, Brigg says he was largely unnoticed. "How was I to know," he says, "that he'd become prime minister 35 years later?"

Some of Brigg's few candid photos that featured Martin Jr., the son he almost missed by his father, who is wearing a tiger sweater, top

trivial artist in Montreal who was finally on the ballot before dropping out (he is now facing deportation from Canada). And while Paul Martin Jr. was at the convention, Brigg says he was largely unnoticed. "How was I to know," he says, "that he'd become prime minister 35 years later?"



## THE DANGER ZONE

In the tribal areas by the Afghan border, support for the Taliban remains high

The attackers drove an SUV diagonally to look like a police vehicle, and they detonated their deadly cargo in a residential compound within blocks of the main palace of the Saudi royal family in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing 26 and wounded 122. That Nov. 8 assault was only the latest sign that al-Qaida remains active. But where in Osama bin Laden, the elusive leader of the terrorist organization? Reports continue to place him in the mountainous area of western Pakistan that borders an Afghanistan, where support for Afghanistan's former Taliban regime and al-Qaida remains strong. McClure's contributing editor Adman R. Khan recently traveled to South Waziristan, one of the seven tribal areas in that region. His report:

**AT THE POLICE** checkpoint south of Peshawar, a group of drivers will about, chatting quietly. Officers closed the gate a half-hour earlier, cutting off the main route to Pakistan's news and administrative tribal zones, stretching for 600 km along the country's border with Afghanistan. From the rooftop pans of our gully roadside motel, my translator Taseq tells me that the drivers, their trucks parked in a line and talking



almost 100 m, will wait for a police escort before making the last leg of their journey. "Night is when the kufirs come out," he says, pronouncing its "poffen" the criminals that lurk along the desolate roads. It's really a pickup service, and the officers brandishing AK-47s climb in to load the conveyance "tribal country," Taseq says, stuffing a bowl of small round loaves. "Who knows what's out there waiting for you?"

The reputation for lawlessness in this area is well known. Since Sept. 11, the region has become a hot zone in the U.S.-led war on international terrorism. Like the Taliban, the tribals are the main and adherents to a deeply conservative interpretation of Islam. Security experts believe that remnants of both the Taliban and al-Qaida, including Osama bin Laden, are hiding in the

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muzzim along the porous border.

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf has had to balance the region's fundamentalist against incoming U.S. pressure to act. Radical Muslims in his country, including many who preached in his country and the country's secretive Inter-Services Intelligence Agency, are deeply anti-American and continue to support al-Qaeda. But with elements of the former regime mounting attacks in Afghanistan, Musharraf sent troops into the region in October and arrested hundreds of suspects. Even so, critics say the border area remains largely unpoliced, and Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters can easily take refuge in Pakistan.

**AS I PREPARE** to leave Tink, a market town 200 km south of Peshawar, I have to check in with Pakistani officials. Earlier in Peshawar, I was told I would have no trouble traveling into the territories, but the Pakistani authorities in Tink make it clear they don't want me to go on. "No foreign press allowed," they tell us, before ushering us out of their compound. But Tink and I decide to ignore them and proceed. Taliban are a big threat and buggy pants—the combination worn by almost every man in the area. Going local will draw less attention to

us, though Tink can't stop laughing. "We'll come home, my Canadian brother," he says, adjusting my collar. "A skullcap and beard and we'll make you into a mullah yet!"

Nice, but religion can get you killed in this deeply conservative part of Pakistan.

**CRITICS** say the region remains largely unpoliced, and that Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters can easily find refuge there.

The British created the tribal area, which have a population of almost six million, in 1893 to serve as a buffer between India and Afghanistan. The people were granted semi-autonomy, which they maintained following the partition of northwest India to create Pakistan in 1947. Pakistan neglected the area, and the seeds of militant Islam were sown amid abject poverty and a virtual absence of secular education.

Madrassa, the religious schools that have gained autonomy since Sept. 11, began to flourish in the region after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979. Money for the schools,

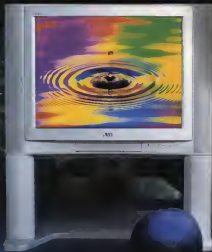
which took a strict form of Islam that focuses on holy war, flooded into the region, mostly from Saudi Arabia. The income was to build up the forces fighting the Soviets. The program worked: many of the former Taliban leaders were graduates of these schools.

As we drive toward Wana, the main town in South Waziristan, the road goes over dry riverbeds and drifting sand dunes. There is a persistent feeling that we've stepped into the past. Nomads still wander with their camels over an inconspicuous rim of desert and green vegetation. There is a marked absence of power and telephone lines. It's an ill-fortune that has slipped over this remote track of land, for the Pakistan tribesmen life is as it has always been—simple and elemental.

Our first stop is Makine, a small market village. At the Pakistan compound the previous day in Tink, we'd met a Makine elder, Ghaus Khan, who claimed to be the leader of a tribal "peace" committee created by the government to quietly handle internal problems. "I've kept the peace in South Waziristan since 1994," Khan told us after ushering us into a quiet corner of the compound, but something seems to have gone awry. The group of 52 elders who make up the committee now went him out. Khan

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In the towns and villages, the seeds of militant Islam were sown amid abject poverty and a virtual absence of secular education.



says he is caught in a power struggle. "There are two families," he said, "who are fighting for control of the area around Malone. They don't like the Americans and they protect the Taliban. I work with the Pakistanis, so they both want me out of the way."

In Malone only a few people are willing to discuss Khan. "Gulab Khan is a murderer," says one shopkeeper. "Everyone here is afraid of him and that's why they won't speak up." An old man goes a step further. "Taliban? Of course there are Taliban here," he says. "Everyone loves the Taliban. They are Pakistan and so are we. We are all Taliban in the tribal areas, except Khan."

With winter fast approaching, migrant workers are making their way out of the Afghan mountains to settle in the verdant valleys of Pakistan's Punjab province. Musharraf's government is under pressure to ensure that elements of the Taliban and al-Qaeda are not travelling with them. There is a steady stream of families passing through South Waziristan. One family has settled down for a few days in a clearing just off the road, setting up tents and bringing their cows to graze on the scattered trees and shrubs. As we approach, we're greeted by Gulab Khan, the 60-year-old patriarch, and his eldest son,

Tor. The family, Gulab tells us, has been on the road for over a week. Getting into Pakistan was simply a matter of paying a bribe at the border. "We have no documents," Tor explains, "but that's never been a problem in the past either. The only problem

**FOR MANY, getting into Pakistan from Afghanistan is simply a run-of-the-mill matter of bribing the border guards**

this time was that there were Pakistan troops looking for al-Qaeda and Taliban. They looked us over but didn't ask anything."

Tor doesn't believe the army's presence will make any difference in securing the border against the Taliban. "Al-Qaeda is easy," he says. "They're foreigners, mostly Arab-speakers easy to spot. But how do you tell a Taliban commander from anyone else? They're all Pakistan. I could be a commander?" His cousin has been working for the past weeks that large numbers of Taliban loyalists are quietly crossing into Pakistan for now before attempting to continue their fight. "Pakistan

will support Pakistan," he says. "That's the way it's been for hundreds of years."

**A HALF-HOUR** further down the road and the inevitable happens. At a checkpoint a guard insists on my identification. I pass over my Pakistani passport (keeping my Canadian ID tucked away in my money belt), and he leads us into a sparsely furnished, smoke-stained room. Another guard, a superior by the looks of his uniform, is seated behind a large wooden desk. "You were told not to come into South Waziristan," he says. "You're trying to dodge us. Get them out of here!"

He hands me my passport. Another guard leads us back to the car and tells us we deserve that he'll be accompanying us to Tank. When we arrive and go to the government compound, it's deserted. The guard hurries off, and a few minutes later he casually returns. "You're very lucky," he says. "Everyone has gone for the day. You can go, but if you get caught again, you will be put in jail."

Secrecy is preferred to verbal cruelty. After 55 years, the Pakistani government is delicately lifting its way through the chaos in neglect of the region's haemorrhage. In today's troubled times, it's better that foreigners not be allowed in to tell the tale. □



Facing pressure to co-operate in the war on terror, Pakistani forces have arrested suspects, but locals say Taliban members can move freely.



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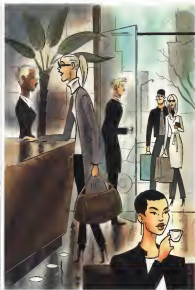
## IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Service, style and comfort  
are making pricey  
boutique hotels popular

**STEP INSIDE** Toronto's Hotel Le Germain and it doesn't take long to realize you're not in the Holiday Inn anymore. There's modernist furniture in the lobby and polished South American hardwood floors in the library. Perry Adams, the elevator walk. The urban-chic design of the hotel's 118 suites is complemented by imported linens, audiophile stereo and original art. And that says nothing of the hotel's specialty-customer service. You don't just want to stay there; you want to move in.

And it's not alone. The \$25-million Le Germain, which opened last March, is one of dozens of so-called boutique hotels popping up across Canada. High-end travelers, on business or holiday, are staying at the Montage Premier in St. John's or Opus in Vancouver, smaller hotels where the service and amenities often exceed those in larger luxury properties. A trend that began in the early 1980s in New York, boutiques are fast becoming a major presence in Canada's \$11.3-billion-a-year hotel business. And they, unlike so many homogenized chain hotels, go at things with more flair. "Designer furnishings and fine food are the prime ingredients of a boutique hotel," says Don MacLaurin, associate professor of tourism and hospitality at the University of Guelph. "Boutique hotels also have a tendency to hire staff that look as if they stepped out of a fashion magazine."

Le Germain gets its style from its owner, Christine Gernier, who's involved in even the smallest decisions, helping to choose everything from book titles for the hotel library to the brand of coffee served in the breakfast bar. "I'm not obsessed with detail, but the



little things are very important in a boutique's success," says Gernier, a silk scarf draped perfectly across her shoulders. "And why wouldn't I spend time on how things look? My family's name is on the hotel."

It's through her family that she got into the industry. Her father, Victor, was a successful businessman in Quebec City, and she and her two younger brothers, Jean-Yves and Richard, joined him in the family business. But during a trip to New York in 1986, Christine and Jean-Yves saw at the Morgan Hotel inspired them to sell all but one of their five businesses and start what would

become an award-winning series of hotels.

The first, Hotel Germain-des-Près, opened in 1988 in an old and previously rundown former office building in Saint-Etienne, Que., a suburb of Montreal. The hotel, which was converted for \$4.5 million. Then, in 1997, the Gerniers, owning open the doors of the Hotel Dominion 1912 in Old Quebec City (where Richard still works as general manager), followed by Montreal's Le Germain two years later. The group is also developing a property east of Montreal in the Eastern Townships. "We're not in a race," says Christine Gernier, who studied restaurant and hotel administration

ILLUSTRATION BY SAUNDY KILGUS

ENTERTAINMENT | NOVEMBER 24, 2005 37

at Toronto's Humber College in the 1970s. "I'd rather have five great hotels than a national chain of average ones. Our hotels are hands-on operations that require a lot of intensity and time."

Service and comfort are the main attractions of boutique hotels, says Glenn Chin, a senior director of marketing with Redwood City, Calif.-based Electronics Art. He stays at Vancouver's Opus Hotel, a celebrity haven that opened a year ago, at least two days every week while on business. "It's as if one of my really stylish friends tossed me the keys to their place," says Chin, 39. "It has a really cool vibe and I don't feel like I'm overdoing when I stay here. And I have to admit, the heated bathroom floors are welcome during the winter." That's exactly the reaction hoteliers are seeking, says John Kearns, general manager of another Vancouver boutique, the 123-room Hotel Le Soleil, that opened in 2001. "We concourse our guests' stay," says Kearns. "We keep a database of their preferences—right down to what wine they ordered at the restaurant during their last stay. It helps us remain more responsive than a large 400-room luxury hotel of anticipating our guests' needs."

Boutiques have also gained a foothold in Atlantic Canada, where cosy bed-and-breakfasts have long been a popular choice for tourists. It's slow progress—the 28-room Murray Premises, St. John's, which opened in 2001, is still the only hotel of its kind in Newfoundland. But it's attracting customers. "Everyone wants to feel like they're the only person travelling in the world," says general manager Hiltsa Byrde. "Our staff knows all of our guests by name. People feel like they're at home when they stay with us."

That warm and fuzzy feeling is rare, but the price is not in everyone's budget. Room rates at most boutique hotels start at around \$300 a night and climb into the thousands for some suites. By comparison, the national average room rate in 2002 was \$108.54. And while some people consider the style a tad pretentious, others think of boutique hotels as a status symbol, says MacLaurin. "These are people looking to see and be seen," he says. "They're the aristocrats of a class hotel guest. They're chased out and boutique helps them make a strong statement that they've made it in the world."

Byrde says baby boomers and high-end business travellers, especially women, make up a large part of their clientele. Le Soleil re-



#### THE HIGH LIFE FOR A NIGHT

**HOTEL LE GERMAIN, Toronto** (top right) boasts fitness centre and personal trainer. Manager room in room 606 (below) and Petrie (below).

**HOTEL LE SOLEIL, Vancouver** (top left) has bath-dressed for the female traveller. Rooms are closer to restaurants and stocked with lifestyle magazines, discount vouchers for clothing stores and low-fat snacks and juice.

**MURRAY PREMISES, St. John's** (right) Most rooms have view of the harbour. Rooms furnished with custom-made maple beds and armchairs.

**OPUS HOTEL, Vancouver** Free hotel car service in Mercedes S400. Heated concrete floors in bathrooms.

cently unveiled a national advertising campaign to show how it takes care of women's needs. "Every suite has a separate bathroom and sitting area," says Kearns. "Female business travellers have told us that they appreciate this feature. If they're having a meeting in their room, they're not forced to stare at a bed the whole time." Female guests also enjoy the small personal details at Le Soleil, Kearns says. "Our mini-bar," he adds, "are stocked with low-fat snacks and three different-coloured pairs of nylons."

There are travellers who want nothing more than a bed for the night. But given the dramatic increase in small hotels' popularity, there's clearly a consistency that lies in luxury. Occupancy rates at boutique



hotels are often 10 to 15 per cent higher than the national industry average, which in the first nine months of 2003 was 63 per cent. Le Soleil, for instance, has had more than 70 per cent occupancy so far this year. Meanwhile, due to SARS, Le Germain in Toronto suffered through a slow start after opening in March, but things have turned around. "October was a very strong month," says Germain, while sipping a coffee in the hotel's breakfast nook. "People are hearing good things about us. Word-of-mouth is critical in this business."

Larger luxury chains such as Fairmont and Hyatt have taken note of the newcomers' success. "They have tried to emulate boutique hotels by installing their own boutique hotel within a hotel," says MacLaurin, citing the Fairmont President's Club and Hyatt Regency Club as examples. These usually include dedicated check-ins, lounges with complimentary snacks, and premium services and amenities. Germain welcomes the challenge. "There was a lot of competition when I was in the restaurant business, so I'm used to it," he says. "Competition makes for a better product and keeps us on our toes. There's nothing wrong with that." Style-conscious travellers couldn't agree with her more.



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## THE PRICE IS RIGHT, OR IS IT?

On balance, a strong loonie is better for the Canadian economy

FOR MOST Canadians, the complexities of currency markets are reduced to a single question: what's the value of the loonie compared to the American dollar? There is, however, substantial disagreement among Canadians as to what is a "good" value for their dollar. During the 1990s, as the loonie kept doing, snowbirds howled in rage at the soaring cost of their customary winter vacations in Florida or Arizona. To them, a loonie should be strong.

On the other hand, when talking with many businesspeople and union leaders, one heard

that a 65-cent loonie was wonderful for jobs—and profits. An Ontario accountant with several specialty auto parts makers as his client base told me recently that if the loonie were to remain around 75 cents or more longer, the strong business his clients have experienced would disappear. Union leaders in the restaurant, hotel and food businesses have been telling me the same story. To them, a loonie should be weak.

A more sophisticated viewpoint came from the CEO of one of Canada's major multinational corporations at a private dinner. He blasted the Mulroney Times for the "cheap dollar" policy, a program which, he said, "improved us all" by making our financial assets and real estate cheaper. He has a point. If a deep currency were the formula for national wealth, then the Argentines and Brazilians would be among the world's richest people, and the Swiss would be among the world's poorest.

However, in a free trade zone, such as NAFTA, or in global trade among WTO partners, a cheap currency can mean gaining market share abroad and helping out foreign competitors at home. Japan played that game from 1979 to the early 1980s, becoming the world's leading export power in the process. The Reagan administration finally put the boots to the Japanese, so big that they if they didn't raise the value of the yen, the U.S. would enact trade laws to help that Japan Inc. wouldn't sell another car or TV set in the States. The yen strengthened from around 240 to the U.S. dollar to the 139 range. That wasn't enough to save the American TV manufacturers, but it was enough to prevent Denso from becoming a ghost

town. (By keeping Japanese competition at bay, it also set the stage for the boom in Ontario's auto industry under Mulroney's free trade policies. Chisana, Oakville, Cambridge, and Windsor were the biggest winners from Reagan's anti-yen pressure, but there isn't a politician or grandee from that region who would admit it. If things are rough for some Canadian industry, then it's the Americans' fault; if things are booming, then it's because of wise Canadian policies.)

That kind of perochism got a rebuff recently from Stephen Polak, the chief economist at Eagon Developments Canada. Polak reviewed Canada's share of world trade and predicted a strong loonie for the future, citing the strong commodity-oriented currency of Australia. Many Canadians who've never seen a headframe or an oil well (and

others) think the Canadian currency floats freely, and there's little the Bank of Canada or the federal government can do about it.

What about the currency of China, the world's most formidable exporter? China is annoyed by the U.S. and Europe of unfairly depressing the value of its currency, the renminbi. The evidence is irrefutable: China has bought more than US\$300 billion worth of U.S. Treasury bonds in the past 18 months to prevent its currency's value from rising against the greenback. George W. Bush and his treasury secretary, John Snow, have publicly complained about China's currency policy, but they are being hypocritical: had the Chinese not bought all those bonds, U.S. interest rates would have risen, something the Bushes certainly don't want.

Washington also complained that Japan was again holding down the value of the yen through massive open-market operations (a code phrase for buying treasury bonds). The Japanese took the point, and cut down on their bond buying. Result: the yen rose nearly eight percent in a few weeks. Although many Japanese manufacturers

moaned, the Japanese stock market rose powerfully. Global investors were eager to load up on shares demonstrated as an strong currency, even if the companies' earnings from export sales suffered somewhat. That has been the story for Canada since the loonie began soaring. Global investors have shown great interest in Canadian stocks, particularly those paying good dividends (such as the big banks).

On balance, there is no "right" price for any currency—least of all for the money of a country with a diverse, open economy. There are winners and losers from every swing in the loonie's value. But strong is better than weak: there are far more winners than losers from a sound currency. Enjoy. ■

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## DOUBLY VICTIMIZED

Crime victims and their families suffer pain and loss, and then they're silenced

NOVEMBER, as ever, brings with it symbols of mourning: leafless trees and fading light, stiff old people on my laps. In the one of one old friend of mine, it also marks the anniversary of his sister's murder. We mourned her together in Detroit this year, a four-hour drive from the frozen confidant

in Quebec's Gatineau. Borned up where 19-year-old Theresa Allure was found in 1979. She went missing on Nov. 4, 1976, from her dorm room in Champlain Regional College, a CEGEP in Lennoxville, Que. She was found the following April, strangled to her death, escorted in via, less than 2 km from

the college residence. Every year, her family, like many Canadian families that have lost loved ones, mourns her death—without actually knowing what happened to her. The police theorized that Theresa died of a drug overdose and was dumped where she lay by pursuing friends. Her family accepted this explanation, unaware that no evidence existed to support it.

Only in 2001 did my friend John Allure and his brother, André, now grown men with children, manage to expose what the cry so long mumbled, and undertake an investigation of their own—one that pointed to murder and isolated a viable suspect. Barred from seeing their sister's complete police file, unable to obtain investigative help of any kind from *ministère du Québec*, they nevertheless uncovered the fact that Theresa had been strangled (they learned the initial toxicology report found no sign



Diana's former servant discusses his 'accurate, historical account' of the royals

I wasn't a butler. Toward the end of my working life, I was much more than that. I



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was a private secretary, a personal assistant, a doorman, sometimes a driver, a go-between, an *enfant boy* and professional confidant—the prince encouraged me to accept and honest and true. As time went by, she created me more and more.

#### Prince William certainly feels betrayed.

Yeah, he seemed surprised. But that statement came from Clarence House, the home of Camilla Parker Bowles and the Prince of Wales. Now, I don't blame them for that. I love those boys. I would do nothing to hurt them. And the book is not a betrayal. It is not a lie and tell. It is an accurate, historical account.

I'm sure they've been some very interesting moments at Buckingham Palace. There's a huge open campaign to rehabilitate Camilla in the public's eyes. Perhaps I've damaged that to some extent by telling the world that even the Duke of Edinburgh said to the prince, "How could anyone in their right mind love you for Camilla?"

#### You describe how Diana behaved about prostitutes. How would she have reacted there?

She regularly took a taxi to the nearby Kensington Palace. She'll see the girls on the street, come out of the taxi, and ask her window down and ask how they were. One night, she gave a girl £50 and said, "You look freezing cold. Why don't you go and buy a coat? I want to see the coat the next time I come around."

#### Are you obsessed with Diana?

A lot of people have said that, but can I swap that word for passion? Many people thought our relationship was unhealthy and wrong. I was a servant. Who did I think I was? But, you know, I was just doing my duty. I was doing what the lady of the house.

#### Will you profit financially from the book?

Yes, I will. I'm not embarrassed about that. Remember, for two years or more I had not one penny of income. As a father and a husband that paid me, because my owner, before the police knocked on my door, was taking off. I was a daytime television presenter. I had landed some famous deals for advertising campaigns. All that disappeared. So I'm putting back what was taken from me before that nonsense happened.

In your book, you write that the prince's legs

#### an interview with George Smith, the servant at the heart of the latest royal scandal. How credible is he?

The prince certainly believed him when he told her his story. I knew of the story of him [allegedly] being raped by a male member of staff. I had no idea there was more. Perhaps some of that was on the tape that disappeared before my court case. It was in the

have a spring of male servants. I didn't tell any incidents attached to any one of them.

One of Myra Adams's former girlfriends says the singer was too drunk. Is that true? Even if it was a very good friend of mine and I wouldn't dream of discussing his private life. None of his former girlfriends wants to discuss her agenda, then I can't stop that.



You quote a letter from Diana stating her fears about a plot to kill her in a car accident, to clear the way for Charles to marry Camilla. Why did you not report that threat at the time?

I'll write to the police that would be the end of my job because she didn't trust the police. Why do you think she got rid of her security? Because they were running messages back to the establishment, telling them where she was going, who she was seeing, what she was doing. She wanted to be safe, but she wanted her freedom, too.

#### You also describe a lengthy conversation with the Queen after the death of Diana and a warning from her to be careful.

In that meeting, we discussed many things. She said to be careful, there are forces at

work in the country of which we have no knowledge. I took that as a clear warning.

prince's apartment. That tape is missing. The last time Lady Sarah McCorquodale [Diana's sister] and I saw it, it was in a wooden box which went to storage. And then the next time I saw the box was in my apartment, and the box was empty.

#### According to your book, Diana pleaded with Charles to distance that male staff member, but he refused.

The prince couldn't understand why the prince would not investigate further. He told her not to have to servants' party and make sure.

#### Did Diana really have male lovers?

I said they were sailors. When you're the most beautiful woman in the world, of course you

would be in the country of which we have no knowledge. I took that as a clear warning. We have internal security, MI6, and I'm sure they listen to telephone calls. To be quite honest, they're probably listening to this one. During the course of my trial, 20 lines I regularly phoned were tapped. We're not talking about James Bond here. It's not fiction, not fiction. The internal security specialists to people who are perceived as a threat to the country.

#### Were you—*are you*—connected about your safety?

Yes. I feel sometimes that the blame is cast on my shoulders for the current crisis in the country. I can't help it if alleged victims of rape take in Kensington Palace decide to tell their stories. And I can't help it if people decide they want to cover up these happenings within royal households. ❑



## Sad little girls

In Cambodia, SUSAN McCLELLAND reports on a thriving child-sex trade

**IT'S AFTER MIDNIGHT** and we're cruising slowly along the pot-holed road that leads to Svay Pak. Phnom Penh is a noisy, bustling city. It's very dark—there are no street lamps and the only light comes from flickering candles set in small Buddhist shrines on the roadside. Fortunately, there doesn't seem to be much activity along the road on this hot summer night. Perhaps the Cambodian government's crackdown on the child sex trade is having an effect. Back in March, the government had closed most of the 50 odd Svay Pak brothels—known for housing an endangered Vietnamese girl—in an effort to clean up the country's growing image as a pedophile's paradise.

Our car turns right down a steep and humpy hill, and as the houses we are jostled back to reality. What look like rundown garages lining a back alley are really brothels full of young girls. Wearing tight clothes and bright lipstick, several saunter over to the car. None of them looks older than 14, but they come on like seasoned streetwalkers, licking their lips and thrusting their tiny chests forward.

As a teenage boy, who is maybe 15, pushes himself to the front and groins for me to roll down the window. "You

want girl?" he asks in broken English as the scent of cheap perfume wafts in.

Sitting in another car is Shoukley Majumdar, co-chair of The Future Group, a Calgary-based non-profit organization fighting the sex trade. He leans out his window and lies, telling the boy he wants a girl much younger than those on the street. Majumdar has brought me to Svay Pak to show the scale of the child sex trade, and he knows that children as young as five are available but kept hidden by their pimps in an attempt to avoid police raids. After a brief conversation in Vietnamese with a rough-looking brothel manager, the boy leads Majumdar and three others down a narrow pathway to a small cabin.

Inside, Majumdar takes a seat in a creaky metal chair beside a stained mattress. Within seconds, two girls, who claim they're 6 and 8, join him. Just awakened, they're wearing cotton pajamas and rubbing the sleep out of their eyes. At first, the girls stand silently and rigidly together. The pimps place one on the back of the head and the girls begin to awkwardly and unenthusiastically flirt with Majumdar. Shaking, the 6-year-old murmurs, "no bococ-bococ, just again-nagain" (Vietnamese slang for oral sex). But when a photographer who has accompanied Majumdar begins to take some pictures, the pimps and his bodyguards draw guns, threat-

At 11, Tring Thi Ting (left) was lured from Vietnam and sold to a Cambodian pimp.







**FACT:** Canada is among 192 countries that have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in an effort, among other things, to prevent sexual exploitation of children.

the porch at a pump sewing machine, 13-year-old Ploy (whose name, as with all the girls in this story, has been changed) finished a burlesque on a shirt she'd making to wear to school with a blue skirt. When Ploy uses me approach, she stops sewing, stands, places her hands together in a prayer, bows and says the Khmer greeting "Baa Vle!" She then gestures for me to follow her inside.

Ploy was born in a poor farming village south of Phnom Penh. When she was 10, her parents sent her to live at a Phnom Penh homeless shelter, claiming they couldn't afford to care for her. Within three days of her arrival, an American, whom the young girl only overheard as Scott, approached the shelter saying he wanted to adopt her. "He told me the paperwork for my adoption was coming," says Ploy. "I didn't want to go with him, but he said he'd take me to America, which I heard was very nice."

The shelter, says Ploy, was overrun with children (there are about 10,000 homeless kids in Phnom Penh) and almost all of the male child-sex workers are street children who

do odd jobs like shining shoes in addition to going with pedophiles who approach them. Perhaps the staff were too busy to check Scott's credentials, or perhaps they told the girl to earn some extra cash. But they allowed the American to take Ploy to Sihanoukville, a southern port city. "On the way, Scott told me it would be easier for him to make me his stepdaughter when I turned 18," says Ploy. "He wasn't adopting me."

Scott, who was about 30, taught English in Sihanoukville and for a year, Ploy says, she felt safe. But one night Scott raped Ploy and made her his sex slave, threatening to tell her if she told anyone or tried to escape. She stayed for two years, until the abuse became too much and she ran away. But begging for money on in Sihanoukville, she met traffickers who took her to a Phnom Penh brothel. "I knew the people I met in Sihanoukville were taking me to a brothel, but I didn't want to go back with Scott," she explains.

A month later, it was raided by police accompanied by the

*"They wanted to go home, but working. He said we'd never want to marry now."*

French-Cambodian non-profit agency *Agir pour les Femmes en Situation Précaire*. She's been at AFESIP's Kampong Cham centre since then and will stay until she's 18, finished school and has learned a skill. She knows where her family is, but she's embarrassed about having been a prostitute and doesn't want to return to them. "What do I tell them?" she asks. "How can I ever tell them?" That scenario is typical among the 1,600 girls in Cambodia that AFESIP has taken in since 1997. They say they feel too ashamed to return home—people openly refer to them as "dirty girls." "Nobody seems to care about these girls," says AFESIP legal adviser Ann Kapoot.

In the absence of local government agencies, outside organizations such as AFESIP manage child prostitution, advise police help to raid brothels, and rehabilitate sex workers. Maynard, for example, reported what he saw at Stop Plo to AFESIP. That may save some kids, but even if agencies can convince police to

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**FACT:** In 1997, Ottawa amended the Criminal Code so it could prosecute Canadians who sexually abuse children outside the country. No one has yet been charged under the law.

red a brothel, it will be back in business days later. "For every girl we rescue," says AFESP official Ann Kapoot, "there are others being trafficked into the trade."

**AT THE** Kampeng Chen centre, Keng Bophat, 13, tells me she was sold to a Phnom Penh brothel earlier this year by a woman from her village in the north. The lady lured Bophat to the city with the promise of a job as a coffee shop attendant, the woman told Bophat for about \$500 to the brothel. On her first day of work, Bophat, a virgin, served three jobs. After a week, two foreign guests paid to keep her for 14 days, during which she would escort the men to restaurants and nightclubs or between having sex. The brothel owner kept the money she earned, supposedly to cover the cost of her food and shelter. Bophat lived

in a small room with seven other girls. It was padlocked from the outside and only opened to let the girls out to go with clients. "Every day I wake up thinking, 'Today I will die,'" she says.

**At a shelter in Kampeng Chen, Keng Bophat, 13, tells me she was sold to a Phnom Penh brothel earlier this year by a woman from her village in the north.**

That wasn't idle worrying. While life expectancy for Cambodian women is 56, girls in the sex trade are lucky to live half that long. Officials claim nearly 20 per cent of Cambodia's prostitutes are HIV-positive, but since the majority of sex workers have never had a blood test, the actual percentage could be much higher. As well, the girls are often tortured and gang-raped at brothels by clients and pimps. Some younger girls are made to have repeated hysterectomies, a surgical procedure to attach a piece of skin at the vaginal opening to make the girl appear to be a virgin. (Asian clients will often pay a premium to be with a virgin in the belief that it will make a man younger and heal medical ailments.) If they refuse to go with a customer, girls are often tortured.

"These children are commodities who will be killed when they've outlived their usefulness, or they die from the torture," says AFESP co-founder Sorrelly Miett.

Reintegrating into society isn't easy, either. Among the girls

at a Phnom Penh recovery centre, some see their salvation in marrying one of the foreigners they've had sex with. They write love letters to the pimps, whom they know only by a first name. The script, written in English, they've learned in the brothels, often begins: "I love you so much. I wish you'd come and get me."

Thang Thilong, however, wants to return to her village in Vietnam. She had been living with her grandmother when a friend offered her a job as a servant in the home of a wealthy Cambodian family. Thang, then 12, agreed, hoping to escape her grandmother's or byzantine home some day. Instead, Thang was sold to a Siem Reap brothel where she stayed for a year. She's now 14-year-old, and dresses in red and pink ruddy hair, is inebriated she was smuggled into Cambodia without any identification papers, and she can't return home if she can't prove her nationality. Not that there's much to go back to. "In Vietnam," she says, "I would be lucky if I can find work in a garment factory or as a cook. I feel like I would be a burden to my grand-



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**FACT:** UNICEF reports a burgeoning child prostitution trade along the German-Czech border. In Pakistan, Afghan children in refugee camps have been auctioned off as sex slaves.

rather. No one will ever want to marry me."

**ON A SMALL PLOT** of land on the Mekong River in Kumpang Chan, we are greeted by Sa Pang as we arrive at her door. With us is Kanna, Pang's daughter who's been living at a Phnom Penh recovery center since being rescued from the sex trade. When she sees us, Pang jumps up from a low wicker table, shakes out of sight, and returns with three plastic bags full of homegrown bananas and guavas. "This is for the girls at the center," says Pang, 50, with a soothing grin. Her two eldest daughters are weaving a red and green straw hat that will be sold for \$1 at market. Pang's emaciated husband sits in a corner smoking an American cigarette. And a one-month-old baby boy is lying swaddled in a hammock by an aunt. The two-room home, with no running water or electricity, houses Pang and 10 members of her family.

But not Kanna, the youngest of Pang's six children. A year before, Kanna, then 16, went to Phnom Penh to visit a tutor who was working at a clothing factory. Pang didn't want her

to go, but Kanna, desperate to see her sister and the big city, stole some money for a taxi and went anyway. She never got there. Pang contacted the police but they wouldn't help, saying they receive anonymous person reports all the time. So Pang went to Phnom Penh in search of Kanna on her own. She told what ever she could, and borrowed money from her neighbors to hire taxi drivers to go into the branches and look for her daughter.

She didn't find Kanna, but to her relief, the girl was discovered by police during a brothel raid. She was disoriented from having taken a tablet several times a day—likely a methamphetamine. Kanna says the pill made her not want to eat or sleep, desirable qualities for a sex worker. The drug also made her forget what happened to her. She remembers sitting in Phnom Penh and finding that her aunt's address was wrong. She had no money to get back to her village. A woman approached her on the street and, saying she could help, took Kanna to a brothel on the Tonle

Sap district. "As soon as I arrived, they beat me and locked me up," says Kanna. "They told me things would be better if I took the pill. Everything became blurry after that."

Kanna now lives at the A2021P center in Phnom Penh and is training for a job in a factory or restaurant. She's also in counseling, trying to recover from the drug dependency and brothel experience. Pang sends her daughter food from the family farm. "I miss her," says Pang, "but as long as she's safe, then I am happy."

In Kumpang Chan, Pang's house becomes crowded as neighbors stop by to visit Kanna on one of her few visits home, and to stare at me, a foreigner Kanna ignores the pyrogyllages, concerning myself only with her four-year-old cousin's hair. At one point, she wipes away a tear as she ties the little girl's hair

into a ponytail with a ribbon—the same ribbon that runs down the face of every center visit. Kanna's hair reveals nothing, but the ribbon, at least, is an expression of hope.

Kanna has now visited her family (above), but she still has not recovered.

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Film | BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

"I HAVE no resignation," Denys Arcand is explaining why he called the police to ask where he might find some crack. The Quebec filmmaker was researching his script for *The Barbarian Invasions*, in which a wealthy young broker procures heroin as a pain reliever for his father, who's dying of cancer. Arcand wondered how his character would go about that. So he called the RCMP. Soon he was sitting across from a pair of hardened drug-squad officers, a man and a woman, in an interrogation room with two way mirrors—a scene very close to one that would end up in his movie. The *Narcotics* told him everything he

wanted to know about junk. The brown stuff. The white stuff. The stress where it was sold. They also gave him a cellphone number for a detective with the Montreal police. The next morning, Arcand dialed the number. "The phone rang," he recalls, "then I heard all this noise—'Get down! Get down! Down now! On the wall!' I said, 'Tin Denys Arcand, the filmmaker.' And the guy at the other end said, 'That's not a good name!'" The next day Arcand opened his morning paper to see headlines about a missing police man on the *Hells Angels*, and the arrest of gang leader

happy to see FLQ bombs blow up real fast—*and* hoping to end his own life, when the time comes, by lethal injection in the company of his loved ones.

We'd arranged to meet for brunch. I'd procured an omelette, maybe a croissant. Before I knew it, we've ordered a dozen oysters on the half shell and two main courses of lobster in a cream sauce, with wines, white and red, that Arcand has chosen to match the food. This is a man who appears to devour life, and ideas, with courteous zeal, not unlike Rémy (Remy Girard), the

Winning two prizes in Cannes—best screenplay for Arcand and best actress for Monique Côté—the \$7-million movie has already grossed \$9 million in France and \$8 million in Quebec. As it opens in the rest of North America this week, the film's heavyweight U.S. distributor, Miramax, is campaigning for an Oscar. It has a good chance of all the foreign-language films released this year, *Barbarian Invasions* is the crowd-pleaser, the one to beat.

It offers a rare mix of intellectual and emotional heft. In the course of a comedy that eases into elegiac drama, Arcand delivers satirical broadsides against our tattered health-care system, the drama of the senile revolutionaries, the faded glacialism of the '60s, the death of literacy, and history's amnesia about New World genocide. The story revolves around the dying Rémy, a once-promiscuous history professor and "voluntuous socialist" who slept with his

## THE DYING ART OF JOIE DE VIVRE

With *The Barbarian Invasions*, Denys Arcand delivers a requiem for his generation

Maurice (Maur) Bouchard, who would later be accused of murder. "So I phone the guy back and say, 'I'm sorry. But yesterday, was it what I think it was?' He said, 'Yes, it was a really bad time to call.'"

It's noon on a Saturday. I'm sitting with Arcand in Chez l'Orfèvre, a Montreal bistro adorned with evergreen decorations of Roman Catholic clergy. It's a fitting place to meet this droll, sardonic director—the Jewish education of a mercenary and a girl plucked from a Carmelite convent—for whom, it seems, nothing is sacred. Over the course of several hours, he talks about dabbling

with heroin, provided by his friends' children, turning down \$1 million to direct *Mag Ryan* in *Wavelength* on Seattle, moving to Westmount (where he was once

epicurean in the *Barbarian Invasions*).

Arcand, 62, is the dean of French Canadian filmmakers. No one has portrayed modern Quebec with a sharper eye, while talking on theories that resonate with an international audience. He trained his encyclopedic vision on cities in *The Decline of the American Empire* (1986), on religion in *Jesus of Montreal* (1989), on celebrity in *Starbuck* (2000)—and now on death in *Barbarian Invasions*, a sad, witty tragedy that strikes a warmer chord than any of his previous work.

This carefully sequenced requiem the cast from the Oscar-nominated *Decline of the American Empire* 17 years later. It's Arcand's most mature work, his most personal, and it's through

students instead of writing books. Now he wonders what he has to show for his life. Meanwhile, his high-flying capitalist son, Sébastien (Gaspard Bruneau), a broker based in London, craves heaven and earth to make his father comfortable. In an overcrowded hospital, he bribes bureaucrats and senior leaders to convert a private suite on an abandoned floor—a literal interpretation of two-tier health care. And as the *Decline* swirls of friends and family flock to Rémy's bedside, he recruits one of their kids, a perfect gambler named Nathalie (Cécile), to soothe his pain with doses of heroin, until she becomes his angel of death. Arcand has strong views on euthanasia. He cites the case of his friend Claude Jutra, the brilliant Quebec filmmaker (*Mon Oncle Antoine*, *Kamouraska*) who was driven by

The director reflects on life, death, duty—and the heart of a bygone Quebec

Alzheimer's disease robs the life, and whose body washed up on the shore of the St. Lawrence River in 1987 "Claude was raised as a doctor, and tried to live with his symptoms," Arcand recalls. "He did for four or five years. Then it became unlivable." The last scene he saw him, Arcand ran into him over breakfast in a party shop "I sat down and said, 'Claude, how are you?' He was so strange. I felt I was bothering him. I finished my coffee and ran out. Later I realized he had

The scenes were passed from father to son. River pilots were paid like airline pilots are today. So we were well off."

The young Arcand was raised on Russian caviar. Soviet captains of ships his father graduated into Montreal harbour—research looking up with Canadian wheat for Russia's starving masses—would tip him with big fish of the black stuff. "I used to eat that instead of peanut butter in the morning before going to school. On Weston bread. I didn't know

his father would her away at the age of 50.

The river pilot rarely talked about his years at sea. But once, at the 1970s, his wife asked Arcand and his actor brother, Gabriel, some concerned questions about drugs. They told her about marijuana, and how it made your head spin a little, Arcand recalls. "Then my father turned to us—he was looking out at the river—and said, 'It sounds like it's not as good as opium. In Singapore, Chinese coolies used to sell an opium that we'd put in our

d't recognized me. If you're a civilized society there should be an easier way of going out than throwing yourself off the Jacques Cartier Bridge. We should provide a place where you sign up and they just put you to death."

There's a line in the film detailing that heroin is eight times more effective than morphine in combatting pain. Arcand says he did "serious research" into heroin. And, like Kéroux, he made inquiries on both sides of the law, consulting the police and children of his friends who were addicts. "I phoned their fathers and asked if I could work with them," he says, admitting that he also tried smoking and snorting the drug several times. "It's perfect. It's great. I was too chicken to try the needle."

When I ask Arcand how he would like to make his own exit, he dies the final act of snuffing out a heroin overdose that ends Northern-broadcast. "This is the way I want to die," he says. "This is what I liked. I want to die near a cottage on a sunny afternoon surrounded by my friends and loved ones—and even have a pretty girl to do the honours." Arcand laughs, incited by the notion of finishing such a day de vivre to the prospect of his own death. But he sounds sincere. His own parents both suffered slow, painful deaths. "In both cases, I don't think the last month was necessary."

The oldest of four children, Denys Arcand was born on June 25, 1941, in Deschambault, a village 80 kms upstream from Quebec City. His father graduated through the treacherous waters of the St. Lawrence—one of a long line of river pilots on both sides of his family going back to the 17th century. "Now you can navigate with radar," he says. "But in the old days you had to learn the secrets of the river. It was like Freemasonry.



The cast and crew of *The Barbarian Invasions* visited Cannes and took home two awards—Ours (left) Ringuiera, Robert, Arcand, Girard, Denzelle Berryman, Goss

how much it cost. So I'd sleep on my nose. I'd eat it with Maxwell House coffee."

Arcand's father was a man of the world who left home at 16 and worked on ships around the globe before joining the river pilot elite. "They all did the same thing," he says. "They were on the high seas for 15 years, did nobody knows what, came back and married a girl just out of the convent, and never spoke about the past." Arcand's mother spent three years in the strict Carmelite order, training to be a nun, before

pages before going to bed. It's wonderful. How you ever met opium?" Arcand laughs. "We were in such shock. We thought we were big, and we suddenly realized our father was doing opium in the 1930s."

Arcand's family moved to Montreal in the 1950s. His father hated the city, but he wanted his children to get a good education. "He sacrificed his life so we could go to the best schools," says the director. "He wanted doctors, lawyers, priests. He ended up with a filmmaker, an anthropologist, a criminologist and an actor. The poor guy!" His father, who "despised filmmaking" took a day away from Denys' chosen vocation. After growing up in the Depression, and seeing the unemployed queue up for five-cent meals, he regarded movies as cheap entertainment for the masses. "Becoming a film maker was a disaster to him. Especially since I worked at the National Film Board—on

**'DENYS** let down his guard and laid himself bare," says Robert. "When you have a child you have to believe there's a future."

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naïve documentary on movie workers.

With *Deuce*, a damning and amusing comedy about intellectuals discussing their naivety, Arcand finally made a movie about his own social class. It cost \$1.8 million, grossed \$15 million, and Hollywood asked him to remake it in English. Instead, he stayed on his home turf to make *Jean of Montreal*, the drama of an unemployed actor who finds work playing Christ in a passion play, and takes the role to heart. It was another graceful ensemble piece, and once again Arcand managed to spin brittle strands of separate stories into a unified, enveloping sense of loss.

Arcand continued to flirt with Hollywood. After *Jean*, he was offered an early script for *Stephane in Seattle*, when Meg Ryan was slated to co-star with Dennis Quaid. "I had one night to decide," he says. After reading the script, Arcand phoned his agent to say no. "That is ridiculous," he said. "There's no one good scene." The agent was afraid. "Listen, Meg says yes to you. Do you know what this means? You're turning down \$1 million." Arcand offered to rewrite the script, but was told to take it or leave it. After he refused, the production fell through—and was later renegotiated with Tom Hanks and director James Lipton, who rewrote the script. Arcand still hasn't seen *Stephane* in Seattle.

His particular vision as a filmmaker may be essentially wedded to Quebec. His two English-language movies—*Love and Phases* (1995) and *Strawberry* (2000)—failed to ignite audiences. And in both cases the tone seemed to be off. He's the first to admit that a character like Rémy doesn't translate into English. "He's very Gullible. He's surrounded by mistakes and dirt in wine." Arcand's bid to remake *Deuce*, transposing the story to Wisconsin, was futile, says Arcand. "You can't do it. Someone who's 35 years old, married, chases his wife every day and has no doubts about it—just says it—doesn't exist in Wisconsin. Or in Nevada."

The director seems to add that, while he shares some of Rémy's opinionated tastes, his own life has been much less contentious. He married his first wife, a schoolteacher, in 1967. They moved to the boyhood home, still owned by his parents, in Deschambault, a village populated by his half cousins. Later they inherited his grandparents' place across the street, a big brick house with a tennis court, and lived there until 1980 before "drifting apart." He spent 30 years living with

another woman, an aspiring filmmaker. And for the past decade his partner has been Denise Robert, producer of *Barbarian Brothers*. They share a modest brick house in Westmount with their adopted daughter, seven-year-old Mingou, who attends a private school run by Italian nuns just down the street.

If *Deuce* is the most painful, least cynical film of Arcand's career, Robert thinks that's largely because he's become a father.



Arcand selected his sense of humor from his river-giant father, who 'vegged' time.

"I could see the influence of our daughter in it," he told me. "Deuce is down his pants and laid himself bare. When you have a child you have to believe there's a future. His other films don't have a lot of hope. With this one there's tremendous hope."

But that hope is etched in what amounts to a requiem—for the young generation of boomers who created Quebec's modern identity, and are being eclipsed by global pop culture. Arcand still marvels at how quickly the province has changed, from a Roman Catholic backwater to one of the most secular cultures on the continent. In *Deuce*, there's some of a church official

showing a basement of religious relics to an sponsor who tells him they're worthless. The nostalgia is palpable, not for the church, but for a future that may no longer exist.

The arc of Arcand's life neatly mirrors Quebec's Quiet Revolution: an altar boy from a sheltered rural parish defies his father and grows up to be an urban, and urban, intellectual. But behind the cerebral aspirations, there's another longing: "Summer to me is sacred," he says, explaining

that on June 24 he returns to his cottage in the Laurentians and never works until Labor Day. After two shoulder surgeries, he now limits his activities to golf. But during the '70s in Deschambault, Arcand played a lot of sports. He learned tennis from his mother, who told him to never take his eye off the ball, and hockey from his father, who told him to never look at the puck.

It seems to me that such a *Deuce* Arcand movie dying to be made, his own *Mon Oncle Antoine*. It's the kind of personal story that most directors would choose as their life fixture—a romance between a river pilot and a convert girl who saw the world change through the eyes of their children. Arcand tells me he's considered it. "I always thought it would be my last film, like Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander*." He's even written some scenes. "I have this very confused kid being told, 'Look at the ball. Don't look at the puck! One day I'll do it, but I don't have a beginning or an end.'"

We leave the restaurant, and drive off to a cemetery to take some photographs under a grey drizzle, when Arcand sees a blessing. "The lights, he says, will be perfect."

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The cast of *Trailer Park Boys* photographed by photographer STEVE at the Lord Nelson hotel in New York on September 1, 1992 (L-R, back row: Trevor (Michael Zuck), Jeff (Gary Shrodes), John (Joe Paul Tremblay), Norm (Gary Campbell), (front row) Sarah (Sarah Connolly), Lucy (Lucy DeCristo), Jeff (John Smith), Ray (Stuart Dwyer). Photo © 1992 Museum of Modern Art, New York.



Scott Mosier, a photo-genetic cat-dog, is the soul of the series

the actor behind Bubba's glasses, can't help but chuckle. Cost and crew follow suit.

Episode 25 of the mock reality series on the Showtime channel is about backyard wrestling. Rocky (Robb Wells), the peripatetic drug who is one of the show's three main characters, expounds in a monologue: "The Green Bastard is Bubba's wrestling name. He's really into it and he's got some pretty good moves, too. I'm glad I'm in the position where I can't do something like this up." In this scene, Rocky has placed a celebration for his episode. He also of fun entails building rides (real), a six-pager joint (fake) and unrolling on a car (also fake, but the apple juice "passing" is convincing). One of the show's merchandising slogans is a mock parental advisory label that warns, "Thriller Park Boys Excessive Behavior." It's not an empty threat.

Over the past three years, the comedy show has earned a well-deserved reputation for radical vulgarity. The characters regularly deal drugs, film pornography and drink until they pass out. They've robbed super markets, liquor stores and gas stations, some times violently, and they go to jail at the end of every season. They shewrote so much they've almost created their own Dozen East dialect. Thriller Park Boys is the raucous show on the dial, barroom, bar, strangely, it's also one of the sweetest. And it's kept from cult status: 16 million recent phenomenon in 21 episodes flat.

"At heart, it's really a family show," says Burns Burns, the co-producer who shares as they, Rocky's father on the series. "These who like it, like it a lot." Those who like it include NBC, America, which is negotiating for distribution in the U.S. Although the series doesn't currently air north of the border, it has accrued American fans—Eddie Murphy, Kid Rock and Madonna's Will.i.am among them. There's also serious talk about

**STANDING BESIDE A WRESTLING RING** made from dirty bedding, Bubba wears his trademark inch-thick glasses and four different shades of the colour green. Sunnyvale Thriller Park's googly-eyed scholar normally sports a plaid shirt and Dockers. But today, filming the upcoming fourth season of television's Thriller Park Boys, he's dressed like the Swamp Thing—mossy Dr. Martens, crocodile-print tights, khaki shorts and an emerald shirt. "GB" emblazoned across his chest in hockey tape. He parts the ropes, climbs into the ring and declares, "I'm the Green Bastard! From parts unknown!" Mike Smith,

**HOSER** / n. Cdn. slang 1. an idiot; a goof. 2. An unsentimental person, esp. an unfeeling, unfeeling, beer-drinking knut. (SOURCE: CANADIAN OXFORD DICTIONARY)

The characters of Thriller Park Boys are the latest in a proud Canadian tradition. It could even be argued that many of this country's extremely unsentimental characters are housed at the core. Some famous, and a few less famous—both fictional and real—of course.



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producing a wide release feature film. At home, with 390,000 viewers per episode, *Trailer Park Boys* is Showtime's second most popular series (after *Star Trek: Voyager*). And the DVD of the first two seasons sold an eye-opening 39,000 copies since its release in May.

The set is in an actual trailer park located a half-hour's drive from downtown Halifax. As *Bubbles* rags inside the ring, the show's female leads, Lucy (Lucy DeCoster) and Sarah (Sarah E. Danworth), pretend to waste time until Lucy has the matroneous. But star director Mike Clatterbuck calls "Cut!" the women seem unable to turn off the trash-talk. "Where did these matroneous come from, Mike?" asks DeCoster. "The rub 'n' tug!" Danworth crinkles her nose. "It's like someone peed over them," she groans. Later, when Clatterbuck instructs the women on which winking, arched look, best for the small screen, DeCoster roasts, "Anything else you'd like us to bring together?" Pat Roach, the actor who plays Randy, the cheeseburger-eating, permanently drunken and trailer-park supervisor, shakes his head. "Class," Roach mutters under his breath. "All class."

But he's smiling.

**THE NEXT SEASON** debuts in April 2004, and was shot with the show's biggest budget yet: \$1.8 million. That's a potpourri on TV.

In a episode of *Trailer Park Boys* once less than a quarter of what *Travis* *Assassin* can earn every week for flipping her car in *Freddie*. But Clatterbuck, 44, and co-writer Wells, 32, and Jean-Paul Deschamps, 38, who plays Julian, the third main character, have turned their wayward over-the-top into a virtual *Trailer Park Boys* to mock reality shows in the form of *Who's the Spine?* *Travis*, mixed with *Cops*, *Jackass* and *The Duke of Hazard*. It looks cheap, but it's supposed to. In the series, fictional characters have come to *Summerville* to produce a documentary about Julian's life. As the camera follows him, the audience

## MORE PARK PEOPLE

*Bubbles* Julian, Randy and Bubbles, the park is home to several other moral and mental cases

### LUCY (Lucy DeCoster)

Occupation: her son's co-owner, also, Ricky's ex-girlfriend and mother of their daughter  
 Biggest vice: dispensing shade with words to her son's daughter  
 To be feared: Ben Kelly

### SARAH (Sarah E. Danworth)

Occupation: her son's co-owner, also, Ricky's ex-girlfriend and Lucy's roommate  
 Biggest vice: supporting Lucy  
 What's to be feared: her daughter, her co-owner Ben Kelly



### LAHEY (John Danworth)

Occupation: trailer park supervisor  
 Biggest vice: alcohol  
 What's to be feared: his "ice college"

### CORY (Cory Bowles)

Occupation: landscaper  
 Biggest vice: joints, bottle takes  
 What's to be feared: by Ricky and Julia

is introduced to his friends, like Ricky and Bubbles, and even one, like Ben Lahey (John Danworth), the trailer park supervisor and the show's version of Ben Stiller. As *Summerville*'s omnipresent father figure, Julian is a Nick-at-night man whose gift-rich gag schemes have involved hoodlums, sex-fueled barbecues and selling back to prison guards. But Ricky, the show's clown, masterfully furthers the plot in spectacular fashion. Meanwhile, Bubbles adops stray cats and is the soul of the series, *considerable* reforming *Pluto* and *The Catcher in the Rye*. Other characters include *Travis* (Joanna Harrison),

### J-ROC

(Jonathan Torrence)  
 Occupation: top hip MC  
 Biggest vice: homemade joints  
 What's to be feared: for his rap skills



### TREVOR

(Michael Jackson)

Occupation: accountant  
 Biggest vice: joints, bottle takes  
 What's to be feared: by Ricky and Julian, but slightly less so than Ben Kelly

### RANDY (Pat Roach)

Occupation: veteran trailer park supervisor  
 Biggest vice: cheeseburgers  
 What's to be feared: *Summerville* residents  
 To be feared: probably much fulfilled

### BARB (Shelley Thompson)

Occupation: owner, *Summerville Trailer Park*, also co-owner of *Jersey City*  
 Biggest vice: jackass, bawling nose  
 What's to be feared: in the park

### RAY (Garry Davis)


Occupation: on some sort of disability  
 Biggest vice: insomnia sticks  
 What's to be feared: by Ricky

33



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WILL Nick Nolte's last role on the *Assassin*, played by the late Robert DeNiro, was a group of young

MEL LAYMAN led a best friend, and smart enough to make *William*, but the picture set his memories to mention that he's out of *Summerville*, because he can still play his own risky series

CHARLES HARRINGTON Don Harrison's country *Summerville* was a perfect fit for the American TV series. Her new, where he lived nearly two decades.

BOB AND BOB MODERATE Black *Summerville* and Dave Thomas led *Summerville* while growing back

a few old ones in *Summerville* The *Summerville* and the

PHILIP HARRINGTON Helping *Summerville* girl of the *Summerville*, she's a true beauty— a fine line *Summerville* cover

PHILIP HARRINGTON Helping *Summerville* girl of the *Summerville*, she's a true beauty— a fine line *Summerville* cover



Last floor, it premiered in the Atlantic Film Festival in 1998. The audience responded enthusiastically to the early, rough version of Ricky and Julian, and Clatterbagg polished his own enthusiasm for the character into a feature-length film. The movie, which had a limited release, was the genesis of the series. In 2000, Clatterbagg and Dunn founded Trailer Park Productions Ltd. and shopped the pilot episode of the TV series around Toronto. After several networks rejected the show, Dunn and Clatterbagg were despondent about returning to Halifax empty-handed. But they decided to hire up show crew—one of the few places they hadn't contacted. They called Laura Michalchuk, senior vice-president of programming at the network. "Obviously, she must have been drunk," Dunn recalls. "What network executive answers her own phone? But she gave us a shot. We were in her office 25 minutes later, pitching the show off the cuff. She got it. It was a gift from the gods."

Mike Smith worked as the soundman on the Trailer Park Boys film, emceeing the cast and crew with his pompous act—the neatly blindfolded with a heart of gold. Later, when the series was greenlighted, Clatterbagg, Wells and Thornley wrote Bubbles into the show. The glasses are Smith's own, his ex-girlfriend brought them for him as a joke when they were in Boston (Smith was on tour at the time, playing guitar at East Coast rock band Sandwich). For the first season, recognizing his contribution—without Bubbles, they'd been Trailer Park Boys—Clatterbagg, Wells and Thornley asked Smith to be a fellow co-writer. "We're a lot funnier when we're just going around," says Smith, 31. A lot more profane, too, he adds. "We've actually got to sort it down for the show."

As next season starts, Ricky's been appointed trailer-park supervisor. Lahey, Randy and Julian are freshly out of jail. While the



Trambling Smith, Wells and Clatterbagg stand the boys' mothers' crew

three were in prison, Ricky was up to his usual shenanigans,

growing a fantastic amount of marijuana (they shot in a dope field somewhere in New Brunswick). Unfortunately, some things

been eating the weed—perhaps a wasp. Despite the petty crime, foul language and sheer dumbness, Trailer Park Boys appeals because its characters are hilariously adorable. In a single episode, Ricky goes from bemoaning Cory and Trevor for not knowing the differences between gasoline ("What are you, stupid? You race at Ultradad racers a little thing, super-victrol of war and diesel extra pretty good"), to sharing a loving moment with his daughter—once a girl named Bubbles (a former reminding Ricky and Julian that all they've got is each other but, in one episode, Lahey summarizes the show's family element most coherently: "Who in this park, or even who in the whole world, doesn't have problems? Who doesn't have a drink too many times once in a while and maybe overreacts up pissed out in their

## GALS LOVING BOYS

The show focuses on how men and their (adult) ways, get 30 per cent of today's adult audience are females. Perhaps they just want to know the money. Among the women who love the boys are:

### GAIL PINCH

IT, administrative assistant, Vancouver  
I don't like the show at first, but was hooked after about six minutes. Growing up next to a couple of guys like Ricky—the guy with that sexy criminal mind but unable to pull off the play. They were near my closest friends.



### LOUISE LAWSON

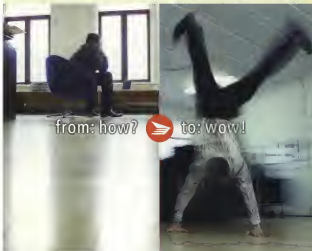
36, high school teacher, Toronto  
I grew up in a small town and had the

chickens to be pretty close to real life. Julie is like all the cool guys who do high school in six years. I love the great business idea that only make perfect sense if you have a criminal mind.

### BROOKE THORSTENSON

26, staffer at Canada's Culture magazine, Vancouver  
I especially like Bubbles. How can you not find a guy who quotes Plato and looks interested funny? These aren't guys' (it's a date, but there's no denying anyone would find them funny. OK, well maybe not my parents

own driveway, giving themselves? Who doesn't drink too much sometimes or who doesn't have a puff from time to time? And who doesn't have problems with the people they love? This is our home. This is our community." Lahey delivers this speech drunk, of course. In Clatterbagg's bearded but probably omnipresent trailer park, nothing else would make sense.



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# MEN OF THE DEEP

Some of the best historical fiction ever written now finds a berth in film

**HERE, THOUGH** the world explodes, these two survive / And it's at *always MGS*," wrote the American author Vincent Starrett about his fictional heroes, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, and their world of genteel intrigue. Some historical ones, illustrated as much by their laconic characters as their inherent drama, never die. For thousands of aficionados, it's *always 1865*, and only Lord Nelson's Royal Navy scud-die-reen-Napoleon-and-infinity of the world. For just the fictional mastery for decades of that era of naval history was C. S. Forester's (not to say cardboard)—Horatio Hornblower. But for more than a decade Forester's attention has been eclipsed by the extraordinary characters of Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin, the heroes of British

rower Patrick O'Brian's 20-volume *Maturin and Commander* series. So intense is the series' popularity that it has not only spawned the inevitable Hollywood blockbuster, but even spawned the occasional about O'Brian's duplicitous life that surfaced shortly before his death at 85 in 2000. O'Brian became famous only late in life. He was 77 when the Aubrey books, which he began in 1969, finally took off after a glowing 1990 article in the *New York Times* Sunday book review section called the series "the best historical novels ever written." Given his age and reputation for guarding

his privacy, readers and fans were at first content with the index of personal information O'Brian gave his publishers. Supposedly born in Ireland, O'Brian was an Oxford student and wartime pilot in the RAF. Later he moved to France to make his living as a translator and biographer. But in 1998, shortly after O'Brian had received an honorary doctorate from Trinity College in Dublin—awarded partly on the basis of his ancestry—media scooters revealed that he had been born Richard Patrick Ross in England, the entirely un-Irish grandson of an immigrant German farmer. O'Brian, according to biographer Dean King, had adopted his Irish name from an alias used by his brother Michael in



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In 1999, the Canadian Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) established the Leadership Institute Diploma Program for educators. The Institute includes modules of study on theories and dimensions of leadership, human resources, plant and property governance, school-wide planning, finance, education law, and marketing and development. The program is designed to prepare educators for leadership roles in independent schools, particularly for headships, by providing courses in aspects of independent schools rarely experienced by teachers.

This summer, at Riverwood College School, Mill Bay B.C., CAIS is proud to recognize the first 24 graduates from the diploma program. These individuals, teachers from independent schools across Canada, have completed the 10 required modules over the past four summers. Leadership is education today and tomorrow begins with those who lead our schools.

Trust, integrity, tolerance, respect and responsibility are core values reinforced by member schools and CAIS leadership programs.

Every fall term, CAIS sponsors the Head Student Leadership Conference. This conference has been established with the pur-



TOP: EDUCATION LEADERS AT UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY. BOTTOM LEFT: STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. BOTTOM RIGHT: STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. BOTTOM RIGHT: STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.



LEFT: STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. BOTTOM LEFT: STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. BOTTOM RIGHT: STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE.

pose of providing an opportunity for student leaders from across Canada to come together to share and learn from one another.

Creative problem-solving, team work and critical decision-making

are fostered over three days through a wide variety of experiences and activities. Students are challenged to question, debate, push and test themselves and to work collaboratively.

In September, St. John's-Riverscourt School in Winnipeg will host this year's Head Student Leadership Conference.

CAIS is committed to nurturing the leaders of tomorrow by providing opportunities and providing experiences so that students may develop the necessary skills for leadership in an ever-changing world.

CAIS is an association for independent schools that operates within Canada or offer a curriculum leading to a Canadian diploma in a location outside the country. Member schools are non-profit institutions with elected boards of governors who are responsible for having a head to manage the daily operation of the school. To qualify for membership, schools must offer an academic program that will prepare students for entrance to institutions of higher education.

CAIS programs for students include an annual writing competition, leadership conferences and opportunities for exchange, completion and collaboration in academic, cultural and athletic activities. An annual conference brings the heads of CAIS schools together for several days of meetings and sessions on current topics in education. Business managers, development officers, assistant heads, admissions officers and heads of junior schools have their own conferences and professionally supportive networks.



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## Books | >

*Assimila.* (After getting a girl pregnant, Michael ran away and took up the peculiar Australian crime of playpos punching.)

As for O'Brien, there were darker aspects to his fantasy life. In the second World War he worked out on his wife and two young children, one an infant girl suffering from spina bifida (she later died at age 3). O'Brien never saw his daughter again, didn't speak with his son for the last 35 years of his life, and never met his grandchildren, yet he felt as compulsion to justify himself. However, he was devoted to his second wife, Mary Talbot, and was close to her children from an earlier marriage, one of whom is historian (and Russian courtier) Nicholas Tolstoy. After Talbot's battle with alcoholism in a restless life that was in 1969, O'Brien helped establish the blog, using his new-found wealth to pay them for his Talbot's son Clarity.

None of it mattered to his fans. By the time the truth emerged, they would have long given him anything but of Georgia ownership. They were in love with what is in essence a single sweeping epic, as remote as — or the social fabric of its lengthy and poignant — of Jane Austen and is of forever when it was. The Master and Commander series is a primer on the Napoleonic era, from geopolitics to daily life — especially the social, race, sound and language of a warship self-enclosed world. That was O'Brien's plan from the start, of course. Masters again on a ship that was in part to observe this unusual laboratory of human nature. "For a philosopher, what could be better?" he asks Aubrey. "The subjects of his inquiry shat up together, unable to escape his gaze, their passions heightened by the dangers of war, their isolation from women."

The results justify the *Times* "best ever" judgment. In one regard especially, none of O'Brien's peers can match him, not even Dorothy Dunnett, author of the superb Lymond series. It's impossible for writers of historical fiction to completely escape modern sensibilities from their work, but O'Brien came closer than anyone else. Perhaps because he lived so long in his own imagined life, he could enter into the Napoleonic era while bearing no modern bias to the era. He wrote brilliantly — in a late 18th-century style himself. When he incorporated verbatim extracts from naval records, they can accurately be distinguished from his own prose.

But that's just the history. The broad



## CAMARADERIE AND ADVENTURE ON THE BIG SCREEN

its 1995, not 1812, and that's a French vessel, not a British frigate, that HMS Surprise and Royal Navy Capt. Jack Aubrey are chasing around the coast of South America. Most of the plot details—including the caricature—in Peter Weir's film version of Patrick O'Brien's *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World* are significantly changed from the novel. But it's doubtful anyone will object. Through ingenious cut-and-paste, Weir has crafted a cinematic tale that's profoundly true to O'Brien's evocative fictional world, a note-perfect reconstruction that's also one of the most amusing sailing adventures ever made.

Much of the tinkering is understandable, especially the switch in enemies. It must have dawned on someone at the movie studio that a US\$120-million epic in which the U.S. sole navy ship plays Albion and the white whale with an American ship could be a risky venture. Much more natural—appealing, in fact—for Aubrey to battle side a

French opponent. As O'Brien's biographer, Brian King, told *MovieWeek*, "Americans read these books, and we grow to love these characters, and suddenly Aubrey is fighting us—we get, uh, conflicted."

Besides, far all his liberties with plot details, Weir's historical fidelity is beyond reproach. So are his actors. Russell Crowe is a superb Aubrey in looks and character. Raul Bottino, Crowe's imaginary buddy in *A Beautiful Mind*, may not resemble O'Brien's Stephen Maturin, the ship's doctor, but he still delivers the Irishman's sardonic punniness with surgical precision. Their friendship, and the complex evolution of all 257 men aboard the *Surprise*, are beautifully rendered, building as it is, *Master and Commander*, like *Lawrence of Arabia*, celebrates military service—the relationships of men at war—for more than it does military exploits. O'Brien, as King's biography shows, had no use for facts when they got in the way of a good story or a larger truth he would have loved the movie. **B.B.**

themselves of the novel, as King compellingly argues, represent O'Brien's personal life as he wished it to have been, while many of the details reflect his life as it was. When O'Brien's wife died in 1968, so did Maturin's beloved spouse, Diana, in a shockingly sudden carriage accident. Maturin is even seriously wounded by a playmate, the only moment that produces scenes



The Far Side of the World  
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At the core of the series' appeal lies one of the great fictional friendships of recent literature, crafted by an author who had no close friends of his own.

Save for that shared love of music, Aubrey and Maturin could not be more different. The captain, a cheerful slab of English roast beef, a mixture of genius and a born warrior, never happier than when running before a typhoon or slaughtering the ship's enemies. Irishman Maturin, a brilliant, prone Dostoevskian narcissist and intelligence agent, has a tendency to be exclusively and serious narcissist. As appealing as *Master and Commander*, for far more complex and believable. Aubrey and Maturin will prove equally enduring. **B**





## GUINEA PIG GLAMOUR

The toughest part of being a research test subject is just lying still

**PM STUCK INSIDE:** A giant magnet and I can't move

Actually, I'm not really stuck, because with a bit of wiggling I could slide out of the metal tube I'm lying in. And, more correctly, I am not allowed to move because I will adversely affect the results if I do. I am a guinea pig I participate in magnetic resonance imaging studies for fun, for money, and great images of my brain. Researchers are always looking for volunteers to serve as control groups and I'd rather spend a few hours at the

hospital than working in a Mojito to help pay for university.

MRU is a great tool that allows doctors to "see" inside the human body with great clarity. Basically, an MRI machine magnetizes water in the body, which releases excess energy when it returns to its non-magnetized state. Different body tissues hold different amounts of water, more water creates a stronger signal. A picture of what is in the body is made by piecing how much signal is coming from many different positions. MRI allows doctors to visualize brain lesions, diagnose illnesses like cancer and spinal infections.

The scientist I've participated in have all involved monitoring blood flow. In my first one, the researchers were examining whether blood flow to certain areas of the brain was different in dyslexia and non-dyslexia individuals. Later studies looked at blood flow to the spine of victims of spinal injuries.

Researchers run a maze world before and ask me a series of

questions, which I was asked again when I showed up at the Health Sciences Centre in downtown Winnipeg. They would start with the standards "Do you have heart disease? Do you have diabetes?" and so on. But then the questions would get stranger: "Do you have any pain from previous surgeries in your body?" and "Have you ever worked in a metal shop where pieces of metal may have become lodged in your body?" (Also no, but the first time I had to pause because I took industrial art in junior high, and if that's even a candidate to have metal spines in her body and not know it, it's me.)

The list of disqualifiers along: pacemakers, untended cyclotron (Y), copper-clad IUDs, dental braces, inner ear implants, eye implants. Riven underwire bras are a no-no.

The questions are designed to not only ensure volunteers are physically fit to participate, but to make certain they don't have any metal inside them. MRI will cause any metal inside the body to vibrate and damage surrounding tissue. It can also remove super-finely stretched metal—in the case with piercings—and flying bits of metal can damage the machine. After one study, one of

myself thought it must be somewhat akin to being in the body fridge at the morgue—only warmer and with lights.

For the dyslexia study, I was strapped to the machine's bed and given earplugs, through which the researchers could communicate with me, and a black rubber ball I could squeeze to indicate I'd heard them. Finally, a large device made of clear fiberglass and holding a sort of primitive TV screen was placed over my head, some 25 cm from my nose. The screen displayed the material I was to read while the researchers monitored my brain function. Once inside the machine, I was not allowed to move while reading, the blood flow in my brain would be diverted to areas not associated with reading and store the results. (I could wiggle a bit during pauses in the testing.) I spent about two hours inside the machine and, at different times, heard a variety of knocks and jings, humming and metal hand-grinding noises—much of it very loud. I was thankful for the earplugs the staff had also provided.

When the MRI was finished—and I was able to stand upright again—I was handed a large, shadowy image of my head. I saw the thin shell of my skull protecting the soft brain where light and dark wiggly lines cross—my veins and arteries. I

didn't appear to have any funny-looking lumps and I tried to imagine what I might look like with a shaved head. I identified that I look better with hair.

Although I am compensated for my time, participating in these studies is no way to make a living. For me, these ghostly black-and-white images are more valuable than money anyway, for their insight into the intricate workings of my body. I may hang there up in my living room.

Andrea Bellemaire is a first-year university student in Toronto. She can be reached at [overtoyou@me.com](mailto:overtoyou@me.com).

## HOW TO EAT A PIZZA. (THE SAP WAY)



1. Fly to Italy. 2. Find a team of old country consultants to research local toppings. 3. Choose toppings. 4. Locate a vendor for the region's finest portobello mushrooms. 5. Drive to Piacenza to my farm outside Cortina. 6. Discover sought-after mushrooms are locally sourced at the Piacenza Specialty Market in the United States. 7. My helper, E, takes time to rehydrate [Consultants will need a line]. 8. Quickly produce eight portobello mushrooms before the price rises. 10. Refrigerate mushrooms at 43 degrees with humidity at 85 percent. 11. Do not wash or soak portobellos, even though they look dirty and you want to eat them. 12. Remove stems with a quick twist. 13. Mix unspecified quantity of flour, water, and a packet of yeast together to create a stiff dough. 14. Let dough rise. 15. Time dough preparation to coincide with mushroom cooking—note that consultants will not provide free olive for cooked mushroom delivery. 16. Heat oven to 400 degrees. 17. Place one tablespoon of olive oil in roasting pan and arrange mushroom caps, bottom side up. 18. Drizzle mushrooms with balsamic vinegar and wine, season with salt and pepper. 19. Scatter thyme leaves and sprigs over mushrooms, and cover with foil. 20. Transfer to oven and roast until mushrooms are fork-tender and cooked through. 21. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. 22. Add broccolini stalks and cook until tender. 23. Remove from heat, drain and transfer to bowl of water. 24. When cool, drain and pat dry. 25. Heat one tablespoon oil in a large skillet pan over medium heat. 26. Add sliced garlic and cook until fragrant. 27. Add minced onion, olive oil, red pepper flakes, and seasonings. 28. Cook in balsamic vinaigrette and seasonings through. 29. Remove from heat, transfer to a bowl, and return skillet to heat. 30. Add one tablespoon of olive oil to skillet. 31. Add sliced garlic, cherry tomatoes, and basil. 32. Roast tomatoes, shaking pan often, until tomatoes just pop. 33. Add another tablespoon of olive oil to skillet. 34. Add frozen seasonings. 35. Cook until hot, about two to three minutes. 36. Remove pan from heat and set aside. 37. Put dough into circle and press into pizza pan. 38. Remove mushrooms from oven and arrange in sautéing skillet, bottom side up. 39. Arrange frozen seasonings in skillet. 40. Layer tomatoes, mushrooms, broccolini, olive oil, and mozzarella on dough. 41. Want to eat pepperoni? Sorry, this recipe doesn't allow for changes. 42. Bake for 15 minutes, then melt cheese by placing the pizza under the broiler. 43. Let cool, then, weighing things up, move about how to measure "done." 44. Drizzle mushrooms pizza with olive oil and serve immediately. 45. Discover your guests have left behind themselves.

## HOW TO EAT A PIZZA. (THE ACCPAC WAY)



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## CLOSING NOTES



### Photos | Every picture tells a story, don't it?

The modern photographer's goal is to get *The Shot*: a fleeting moment captured on film. Everyone's looking for the one image that will win an award, sell a magazine, stir an election. Many famous pictures come and go, live for a short news cycle and even shorter internet vapors. And professional photographers have had to adapt, meeting their craft as a business, driven by the disposable nature of today's media. Still, a dedicated minority yearns for a return to the gear when photo-documented luminaries like Walker Evans and Beaumont Newhall evoked months of their time—and innumerable energy—in their subjects.

Numerous 360 9 groups (Canadian documentary artists) have dedicated themselves to these types of larger personal projects and labours of love. And inspiration by this collective, entitled *Documents and Dreams*, is on display at Vancouver's 38th Author until Nov. 25. It's a compilation of the work of 33 photographers, including Roger Lewney, Larry Towell, Zoltan Kacsics, George Pasner, Brian Howard, Ellen Eisenberg, Art Perry and David Campbell. Eisenberg, for example, submitted a sidewalk scene from his two year series (1999-2000) as *Jessica and Perry* provided an image of



Evans' talk on *Jessica and Perry*, Irish photographer, shot by Perry in 2000

journalist Omergen taken during his five years photographing Ireland. It's a capture the intimacy of these long-term projects. "We tend to go beyond the incident," says Campbell. "We say, 'who is this person, where do they live?'" There's a real empathy between photographer and the subject and it's not just dealing with it.

TRACY BOYLE

## LISTINGS

#### Upcoming Shows

Nov. 21-23

**Canadian Aborigine and World Model acts** Use this event to help raise the profile of culturally diverse artists. [www.canadacultural.com](http://www.canadacultural.com)

#### General Affairs/Books

2007-2008

Nov. 24-4

**Two retrospective features about 200** items such as flags and crests that were produced by the Canadian artistic line known as General Affairs. [www.museum.ca](http://www.museum.ca)

#### Film/TV

Nov. 24-24

**The Centre in Vancouver** for Performing Arts is hosting the Canadian theatrical debut of the sequel to *Forever Had*. [www.centre.vancouver.com](http://www.centre.vancouver.com)

#### Music/Film

Nov. 24-24

**The 38th Author** Canada Centre hosts a celebration of the 38th anniversary of the *Weight* broadcast. First signed weight. [www.38thauthor.com](http://www.38thauthor.com)

### Books | Curling up with an icebound passion

**CIC** (Journalist Scott Russell's) novel *Love is a Hockey*, set in the heart of the Great Lakes, Canada, and the *Movie of Caring* (Bookings), is about the country's other icebound passion.



Russell's novel is a love story that goes to the heart of the country's other icebound passion. [www.loveisahockey.com](http://www.loveisahockey.com)





John Intini starts a sentence ...  
Enrique Ioleslas finishes it

The male might be gone, but Larin hasn't been shrunk. *Baroque* ignores it, but. On Nov. 25, the 28-year-old singer—the famous far being the son of crooner *John LaRocca*, the boyfriend of singer *Janet Jackson*—and his doctor advised he moved the boomer of an oversized facial birthmark—releases his third English album, 7. The Miami-based celebrity recently finished *Madison's* Researcher-Reporter *John LaRocca's* accounts. **THE LAST MILE I COOKED FOR MYSELF...** was *unintentional* eggs. Does that count? Actually, I don't think I've ever really cooked a whole meal.

FANS WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW I OWN... an ultralight. It's a one-seater plane. I learned to fly it about a year ago. My manager isn't really ecstatic about the hobby, but it's a lot of fun.

I GET NERVOUS WHEN...there's turbulence. But only when I'm a passenger. There isn't

any when I'm dress

IF I DIDN'T SING I'D BE..., a poem star. Actually I'd be an unsuccessful poem star.

MY GREATEST REGRET... is that I didn't have more fun in high school. I didn't party enough and not hated some

**THE FIRST TIME I REMEMBER WEARING A TONGUE**... was about four years ago. I didn't need it because it was cold. It's a style thing for me.

I MISS my family vacations in the south of Spain.

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON MY FATHER TAUGHT ME ABOUT WOMEN... was never get married. But I don't know if he was ever serious about it. And I can't really take his advice—he was a rock star. He lived a much different life than most guys.

FOR MORE "FINISH THE SENTENCES," VISIT  
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**Books | A fish story with a decided difference**

brorets with Cary Fugate's fiction has been building her solid reputation for more than a decade now, one she renewed recently. *The Mosaic of Francis Xavier*, will only represent, set a century ago in small town Canada and working-class France, Fugate's magic: an ability to take observational lore in the story of invention and materialize powerful history Henry Church and his spiritual wife, Margaret. She's a remote beauty who has lately taken to solitary nighttime swimming in the river near their Ontario home, the better to ease the excruciating pain in her leg. When Count Andrei Stralov, a Russian performing strong man, arrives at their home, things meet a definite full stop.

Anyone who puts the two parts together with the little clues gives where this novel is heading, but Page's fast writing and inventive plot twists make it an extraordinary literary journey.



### Best Sellers

## Fiction

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 5. THE BLUE PINKIE WORLD OF VIRGINIA LEE, 1932, E. Richard (10) | 4 |
| 6. THE WAY THE GRASS GROWS, Adrienne LaBonte (20)               | 2 |
| 7. THE UN-INVITED DINNER, Jose Emma (10)                        | 2 |
| 8. VIRGIN LASS RANCHED, Stuart McManus (5)                      | 2 |
| 9. THE THUNDER WAGON, John Brown (7)                            | 2 |
| 10. REAPPROACH, Frances Reed (10)                               | 1 |
| 11. QUICKSILVER, Neal Kinsman (27)                              | 1 |
| 12. YELLOW ROAD, Martha Ames (1)                                | 1 |
| 13. AVENUE OF THE BROOKLYN BRICKS, Stuart Adams & Charles (10)  | 1 |
| 14. PAPER AIR, Robert Shapiro (1)                               | 1 |

## Non-fiction

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. <b>SHOULD WE LIVE WITH THE HEAVILY DROWNED?</b> (Julius) (E) | 1  |
| 2. <b>CANADA-LAPORTE IN LETTERS</b> (Cher) (S) (G)              | 2  |
| 3. <b>IN THE WINTER, I'VE COME TO THE</b> (M. J. (S) (G))       | 3  |
| 4. <b>A FIGHT WITH THE HEAVILY DROWNED</b> (S)                  | 4  |
| 5. <b>THE HEAVILY DROWNED</b> (S)                               | 5  |
| 6. <b>THE HEAVILY DROWNED</b> (S)                               | 6  |
| 7. <b>THE HEAVILY DROWNED</b> (S)                               | 7  |
| 8. <b>THE HEAVILY DROWNED</b> (S)                               | 8  |
| 9. <b>THE HEAVILY DROWNED</b> (S)                               | 9  |
| 10. <b>THE HEAVILY DROWNED</b> (S)                              | 10 |

( ) (Review on file)  
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## CLOSING NOTES



Monette in *Hamlet* at age 19 (left); Alexander Avelich shares Monette's artistic philosophy

### TV | Documenting Canada's youngest prince

Documentary filmmaker Barry Avelich is brutally honest about how he chooses his subjects. "They're people I wouldn't want to meet," he says, then points out it's a trend he started when he was young. "I made a movie about models, because I wanted to meet two cute girls who were in my school." Now his taste has more to do with power, artistic and enigmatic male subjects—he's profiled (for TV) crime writer/Mystery Fair columnist Donnie Dick, the late movie mogul Lew Wasserman, and is currently working on a film about high-profile Canadian defence lawyer Edward Greenspan.

The *Master of King Richard*, Avelich's documentary on Stratford's artistic director Richard Monette, aired on Bravo Nov. 26. It's a racy portrait of the 39-year-old Montreal-born actor/director—whose was the

hill with musicals and non-experimental, "gay" productions of Shakespeare. Monette counters: "We've done almost all the plays of Shakespeare in the last 10 years and so new Canadian plays—in this pop culture? If Shakespeare were popular, you'd find all the commercial producers producing it."

Avelich, who also runs a Toronto advertising firm, believes in Monette's fearlessly successful approach and is adamant about the need for a profitable Canadian art scene. "I think we've seen enough films of anarchy, death, destruction—dark, non-consensual love, intended for the smallest audience possible," he says. As usual, Avelich chose to profile Monette because he wanted to meet this "completely gay" man. The fact that they shared the same philosophy was a bonus. SHAMBA DEZIO

### TV | The Simpsons meet the NFB



The Simpsons has always dominated Canada's pop-culture airwaves—the top 10 Toronto, with *Wipeout*, *Movie*, *The Tonight Show*, and *101 Dalmatians*. Homer has a following comparable with a line that's a parody of the National Film Society's recent *Golden Age* series. The movie, based on a book about North Bay, Ont., which is a cult favourite in Hollywood—and, as it turns out, Montreal.



## The Medical Posting



FYI

Between 1995 and 1997, the overall Canadian heart disease mortality rate was about 246 per 100,000 population. Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest rate, at 321 per 100,000, while British Columbia had the lowest at 223 per 100,000.

(Source: Canadian Cardiovascular Research Team)

### Patch may revive sex drive

Women experiencing low sexual desire after surgical removal of the ovaries can get a boost from an experimental skin patch containing the male hormone testosterone.

Women may be provided hormone replacement therapy after surgery to ease the symptoms of menopause that occur because the ovaries produce by the ovaries is no longer present.

The ovaries also produce small amounts of testosterone, and levels drop by half after surgery. In women, that hormone helps increase muscle and bone and contributes to sex drive, or libido.

One study tested a testosterone skin patch that delivers the hormone into the bloodstream and increases levels to those normally found in young women. It

involved nearly 450 women who reported a decreasing loss of sexual desire after surgical removal of the ovaries.

For 24 weeks, they were randomly assigned to receive inactive skin patches or testosterone skin patches that delivered one of three doses of the hormone into the bloodstream. The patches were changed twice per week. The women wearing the medium-strength patch reported a 50 per cent increase in the frequency of satisfying sexual activity compared with the placebo group, and an 80 per cent improvement in their own sexual activity since the beginning of the study.

### MRI helps identify MS early

Scanning the brain with MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging, can help predict who will go on to develop multiple sclerosis (MS) after a first attack on the nervous system.

In MS, the body's own immune system repeatedly attacks the protective myelin sheath covering nerves in the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms vary depending on the location and extent of each attack and can include vision problems, muscle spasms and weakness.

Not everyone with these symptoms has MS, but a report by the American Academy of Neurology concludes the appearance of abnormal lesions called white matter lesions on an MRI scan of the brain can help predict the development of the disease.

Recent studies have shown early treatment can slow the progression of MS.

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## LIBERAL RED: BAD BLOOD

The Martin team is trying to banish Jean Chrétien from memory

**WELCOME BACK** my friends, to the off-the-record background briefing that never ends. Paul Martin was going to scum. There is always a very long moment, before Paul Martin scums, when he is going to scum. At the top of an escalator at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, a Martin man briefed reporters, endlessly, about the meaning of the cartoon that the not-yet Liberal leader was about to make. Then we descended the escalator. At the bottom, another Martin man greeted the pack of reporters and briefed us,

endlessly, about the meaning of the cartoon the candidate was about to make.

Then we waited. Presently there was a noise in the crowd and the man himself appeared. The moment when Paul Martin was going to scum became the moment when Paul Martin was in fact scumming. As always, the latter moment was shorter than the former.

Who he upset that Jean Chrétien had presaged the House of Commons, naming some bills into limbo? Yip. "I had indicated a preference that the House commence voting."

When would he like to meet the businessmen and trade their bawling books for his marching orders? "It's very expensive and I'd like to have it happen as soon as possible."

Clear answer? We're on a roll. Right then Jean Chrétien will announce Tuesday when you'd like to assume power. When do you want to become prime minister?

THUD. Just as the apt-level guarder of nameless briefings had warned us we would, we hit a brick wall.

"I've made it very, very clear that the decision as to when the Prime Minister leaves has to be totally his."

Halt! The verbs pushed, of course. The lie wasn't lying. "I'm sure the Prime Minister leaves his own mind," Martin said mildly. Raffle-free news. At least one of the two men at 24 Sat on Tuesday will know his own mind.

Martin's refusal to state a preference regarding the job he has wanted for decades



was the most polite version of the pre-briefing briefing I've received the night before from a Martin man. That one featured a gesture, a puffing jaw and a pointing finger. "We've said it's Chrétien's choice and it's Chrétien's choice," he said. "We don't want options. We don't want variables. We don't have—a dare?"

Right. Fine. The Chrétien-Martin relationship ends the way the Martin trilogy ended: the characters make a series of incomprehensible decisions, and then two guys in expensive suits run around smacking each other.

"It's the worst conversation I've ever seen," one Liberal told me. "Everybody's angry. This is supposed to be about coming together, family, unity, happy happy. I get here and the big headline is 'PUSSIE!'"

That word was featured in Wednesday's *Globe and Mail*, over a story saying almost all of Chrétien's cabinet will be demoted to the backbenches when the revolution comes.

A Martin helper said the Globe man that the danger to be avoided is a headline reading, "The Same Old Bunch." A senior leader would construct his cabinet as to wind up with a good cabinet, not a good headline.

There should be no more senior leader than Paul Martin. His intelligence is obvious. His accomplishments are famous. His dominance is so complete it transforms the Liberal party for the first time since Lester Pearson, the new leader will not be dogged from the first day of his tenure by a whymyng rival. Trudeau was stuck with Turner. Turner had Chrétien. Chrétien had Martin. Martin is unchallenged.

Except by the muscle memory of a fight so convincing he cannot simply let it go. He will pretend instead the past decade never happened. Jean Chrétien will disappear down the memory hole. All record of the 10 Chrétien years will be erased. As the Martin helpers said the Globe man, the founding narrative of the new era will be that this is the first Martin mandate, not the fourth Liberal mandate.

One must greet as a danger signal any attempt by a new leader to fit a delusional narrative onto events. Martin's election, if he does not scum it up, will obviously begin a fourth Liberal mandate. His attempts to deny this show characteristic vigour.

In a little line note in the handbooks distributed to every convention delegate, Martin passed himself fresh as the morning dew. Selected excerpts: "New prosperity just the beginning... begin... about to embark... renewal... new directions..." O-K, boss. We get it.

Denial is never an easy state of mind to attain. It takes work. Their efforts to banish Jean Chrétien from memory will ensure the Martin man's obsession with Chrétien continues. Clement Coleman once asked "Where Will the Wizard Lead?" Not soon, baby. Not soon.

To comment: [backpage@readers.ca](mailto:backpage@readers.ca)



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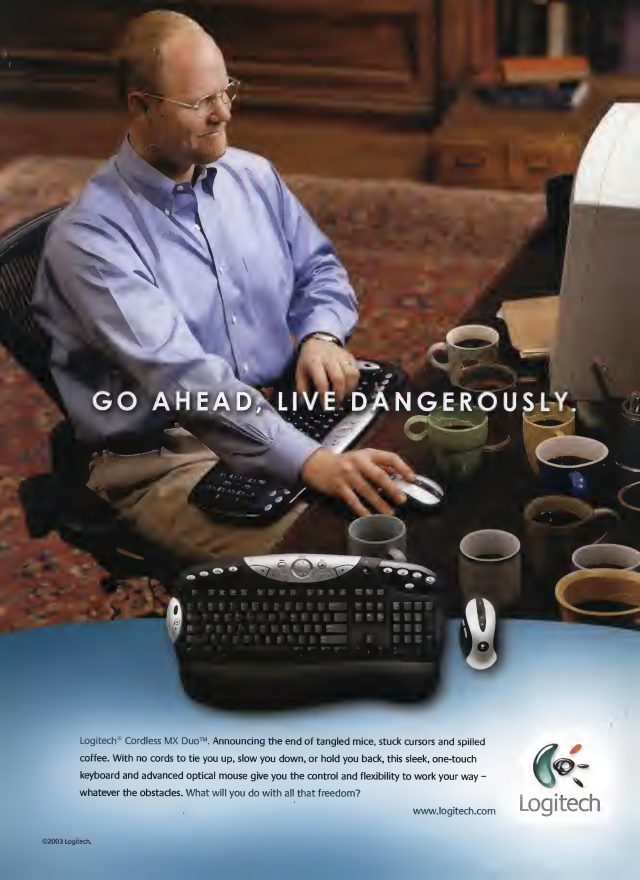


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